

CHURCH MATTERS – SAVE THE DATES

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, Jan. 26th immediately following worship, and a preparatory session on **Sunday, Jan. 12th**

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 on **Sunday, Jan. 12th**.

NEW MEMBERS – WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHURCH?

We rejoice and welcome all who gather and share in our life together as church. But 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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

EXPLORING OUR FAITH AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Today! January 5th – EOF, 5:00-6:30 p.m.; High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

This month we'll explore questions related to the Bible, including some Bible basics and discussion of some of the odd, violent and/or difficult passages. We'll celebrate the New Year; share great conversation and food; and get ready for our overnight with CityReach!

CITYREACH OVERNIGHT SERVICE TRIP - Collection and RSVPs

Friday - Saturday, January 10th-11th

Donations of travel-sized toiletries, used men's outdoor clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, carrying cases/bags, and new underwear or white socks are VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

Exploring Our Faith students, and other high-schoolers and adults are invited to join this powerful overnight service trip with our partner, Ecclesia Ministries in downtown Boston. We'll learn from and serve with Ecclesia members who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, share meals, and distribute needed clothing, blankets and hygiene items to guests. If you can contribute any of the items above, we would be so grateful, and will have a collection box in the Crocker Chapel. Please let Pastor Amy (amy@ucw.org) know asap (**by TODAY Jan. 5th at the latest**) if you can join us.

NICARAGUA BAKE SALE: Sunday, January 12TH

Save the date and start looking through your favorite bake-sale recipes (no peanuts or tree nuts please)! In preparation for our service trip to Nicaragua in February, we will hold a bake-sale to raise funds for needed school and other supplies for our partners in San Juan del Sur. We hope you will plan to contribute something delicious, and buy something yummy for yourself. We'll need help baking, preparing the goods for sale on Saturday, and selling. If you can help, please talk to Joannie Kelly or Pastor Amy.

TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank you to Sandra & Tony DaDalt 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.

MISSION OUTREACH

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. We also hope to coordinate our seasonal special collections around these themes as well.

Themes are as follows:

Winter – Homelessness and Housing

February 2nd – Common Art Show at the Union Church

March 1st – Public Voices Speakers from City Mission will share their stories

March 8th – Potluck and speaker, Josephine Mc Call, author of *Penalty for Success*. Her book tells the personal story of her father's lynching and how this was used as a common practice used when African Americans became successful.

Spring – Climate Change (and disaster relief)

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.

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!

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. It 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., Jan. 5	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.	NICA Traveler's Mtg.	
	5:00 p.m.	Exploring Our Faith	
	6:30 p.m.	High School Youth Group	
Tue., Jan. 7	6:00 p.m.	Deacons	
Wed., Jan. 8	6:30 p.m.	Council	
Thur., Jan. 9	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Group	
	9:00 a.m.	Yoga with Andrew	
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Leadership	For a complete listing, and details of upcoming events, please visit our website, www.ucw.org
Fri., Jan. 10	4:00 p.m.	City Reach (EOF and High School Groups)	
	6:00 p.m.	All Comers Dinner	
Sun., Jan. 12	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:00 a.m.	Nicaragua Youth Bake Sale	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	
	11:30 p.m.	Info. Session: Updating Our Covenant	
	12:30 p.m.	Selma/Montgomery Pilgrimage Conversation	
	7:30 p.m.	Parents 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.