



ORDER of SERVICE for Sunday, April 19, 2026

Believing in a community that unites all people

Pre-Service Quiet

Prelude *First Light* by Ola Gjeilo
Music Director Matthew Johnsen

Chalice Lighting *The Garden of Resistance* by A. Payson

Choral Introit *Rising Green* UUCW Choir

Welcome

Opening Words *A Call to Cultivation* by A. Payson

* Opening Hymn *The Garden Song* Garden-On Team

Change for Change Collection

Sending Song
Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the Spirit of Love surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Reflection *Contrarian Gardening & Sowing Seeds of Revolution* Rev. Aaron Payson

Offertory *Anniversary* by Clif Hardin
(Newcomers: please accept this service as our gift to you.
Do not feel obligated to participate in the offering at this time.)

Duet *Make Our Garden Grow* from *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein
Maria Ferrante, Soprano & Christon Carney, Tenor

Joys & Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

Musical Meditation *Improvisation* by Matthew Johnsen

Responsive Reading *How Does Our Garden Grow?* by A. Payson

* Closing Hymn #1058 *Be Ours A Religion*

Benediction *Go Forth and Sow* by A. Payson

Choral Postlude *Hush* Trad. American Spiritual, arr. Clif Hardin

* Please stand in body or in spirit

Note About AI Use: The Minister sometimes uses AI to help shape elements of the liturgy for worship. The technology is used as a tool to assist in developing ideas and in refining word choice and phrasing, not as a substitute for crafting the material itself.

Text-to-Give - Without check or cash and want to participate in our weekly offering? From a smartphone text the amount of your contribution to 508-231-5335. First-time contributors will be asked for one-time registration information by Simplegive. Thank you for helping us continue to be a congregation of love, hope and justice!

SERVICE NOTES

Our thanks to these volunteers

Worship Associates:

Garden-On Team

Audio-Visual Team:

Ali Aslam, Kate Bejune,
Betty Jenewin, Paul Marr,
& Frank Sweetser

Online Hospitality:

Dawn Doud &
Rev. Cheryl Leshay

Church Photographer:

Betty Jenewin

Greeter & Connection Team:

Nancy Baffa & Maya Desai

Fellowship Hour Sponsor:

Garden-On Team

Visit a Connections Team
Member at the Welcome Table
during fellowship hour for more
information about UUCW!

UPCOMING SERVICES

Unless noted otherwise
Preservice Quiet & Prelude at 9:50 am
Worship Service and RE Classes at 10 am
Fellowship at 11:15 am
Unless otherwise noted,
Rev. Aaron Payson, Preaching

Sunday, April 26

*When the Ending is
Just the Beginning*

Sunday, May 3

New Member Sunday
Fear & Prophetic Possibility

Sunday, May 10

Mothers Day Sunday
COA Graduation
Belonging, Becoming, and Beyond

Sunday, May 17

Curing with Curiosity

FELLOWSHIP INFO

Please! No food or drink in the
sanctuary during the service.

Please join us after the service
today in Fellowship Hall for coffee
and conversation!

UUCW Activity Calendar ~ April 19 - 26

Sunday, April 19 -Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

1:30 - 4:30 pm Garden-On Team Fellowship Hall
7 - 8:30 pm New UU Online Class Online

Thursday April 23

4 - 8:30 pm MCAN Meeting Fellowship Hall

Saturday April 25

8 am - 6 pm Memorial Service Fell. Hall/Sanctuary

Sunday, April 26 -Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

1 - 5 pm Social Threads Fellowship Hall
7 - 8:30 pm New UU Online Class Online

Please visit the Church Calendar for more events by going to the website at www.uucworchester.org, or scan the QR code!



New UU Online Classes - Sunday Evenings @ 7 pm (til 8:30) Online April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2026

Join Rev. Aaron Payson and other leadership from UUCW as we explore the history, values, organization, and practices of Unitarian Universalism in general and UUCW in particular. This series of conversations is a general introduction to Unitarian Universalism and is open to newcomers and seasoned members alike. Interested in joining us? Scan the QR Code or visit <https://bit.ly/uucwnwu> to register. Once registered, a link will be sent to your email.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION & EDUCATION

10 - 11:15 am; *Youth Group*: 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, all meetings on Sunday. For information on UUCW RE programs, please email the RE program at uucwre@gmail.com

UUCW NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the most up to date UUCW News, please scan the QR Code with your phone to visit the church website at www.uucworchester.org!



OFFICE INFORMATION

Office Hours: Office Hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm; Thursday 9 am - 2 pm. Jen works from home on Tuesdays from 9 am - 3 pm. She is available by phone (508-853-1942 ext 102) and email (office@uucworchester.org) from 9 am - 3 pm on Tuesdays, unless she is handling family medical needs.

WORSHIP ARCHIVE

If you missed last week's service or want to revisit a service from this year or last? Visit the UUCW Worship Archive at <https://www.uucworchester.org/sunday-morning-worship/service-archive/>! Each week we post the service from the previous Sunday to grow our archive of service experiences. These services are also available on the UUCW YouTube Channel.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

The members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester covenant to be a congregation of love, hope and justice inspiring people to take on the challenges of a changing world.

WELCOMING CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester strives to further the affirmation and celebration of LGBTQI individuals in all aspects of the church community. We also seek to increase the visibility of UUCW as a Welcoming Congregation within the greater community.

Regularly Scheduled UUCW Events/ Community Groups

Addressing Racism Group

E/O Tues., 10 am - noon, Meeting Room 2

UUCW Bell Ensemble

Monday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Board of Management Meeting

2nd Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Mtg. Room 1

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 9 - 9:30 am, Sanctuary

Evening Book Club

2nd Wed, 7 - 8:30 pm, Lounge

Fiber Arts Group

Wed, 7 - 8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Get Out The Vote Team Zoom

2nd Thurs, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Zoom

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry Setup

3rd Thursday, 4 - 10 pm, FH &

3rd Fri, 8 am - 10 pm, Fellowship Hall

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

3rd Sat, 9 am - noon, Fellowship Hall

Lunch With the Minister

1st Wed, Noon-1:15 pm, Fellowship Hall

UUCW Peace Vigil

2nd & 4th Wed, 6 - 7 pm, UUCW Peace Pole

Side With Love Task Force

1st & 3rd Tues, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Zoom

Staff Meeting

Mon, 10 am - noon, Meeting Room 1

UUCW Game Night

1st Fri, 6 - 8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Women's Social Circle

2nd & 4th Sat, Fellowship Hall/Off-site

Community & Support Groups:

Al-Anon Adult Children (ACOA)

Thurs., 7:30 pm, Meeting Room 1

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Fri., 8 pm, Lounge

Debtors Anonymous (DA)

Tues., 7 pm, Meeting Room 1

NAMI Support Group

1st Tues., 6:30 pm, Lounge

Overeaters Anonymous

Sat., 7:30 am, Meeting Room 1

Rainbow Explorers Group

Mon, 4:15 - 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

WGLN/ESWA Rainbow Lunch Club

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wed, 12-1:30 pm

Worcester Community Drum Circle

4th Sat, 7 - 9 pm, FH

THE OFFERING THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Sunday, April 12 pledges = \$2,453
FY2026 Pledges to date = \$165,639
Budgeted FY2026 Pledges = \$211,570
% of way towards Budget Goal 78%

Sunday, April 12 offering = \$301
FY2026 offering to date = \$13,629
Budgeted FY2026 offering = \$10,000
% of way towards Budget Goal 136%

Sunday, April 12 Change for Change = \$39
Sunday, April 12 Coffee Hour = \$7

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

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Opening Hymn *The Garden Song* by David Mallett

Chorus:

*Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
And inch by inch and row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Til the rains come tumblin' down*

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land

Chorus

Plant your rows straight and long
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care
An old crow watching hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
And in my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there

Chorus

Responsive Reading *How Does Our Garden Grow?* by A. Payson

In every age, voices of power have tried to shape the world through fear, and conformity.

We remember that even in hard soil, seeds of resistance can take root.

History tells us that many gardens have been places of tyranny—a warning about the consequences of power unchecked.

**Yet we also remember in the rhymes of history,
a whisper of possibility: that a different kind of cultivation is possible.**

When the world asks us to obey without question, to accept injustice as inevitable—

We choose to be “quite contrary,” planting compassion where cruelty has been sown.

When history repeats its harshest lessons, and the present moment feels heavy with echoes and shadows of the past—

We commit to tending a new garden, where truth, courage, and imagination grow.

So we ask again: How does our garden grow?

**With open hands, brave hearts, and the stubborn hope
that even now, another world can bloom.**