



ORDER of SERVICE for Sunday, February 1, 2026

Believing in a community that unites all people

Pre-Service Quiet

Prelude *La Cathedrale Engloutie* by Claude Debussy
Matthew Johnsen, Music Director & Pianist

Chalice Lighting *At the Threshold of Returning Light* Moira Rouse
words by A. Payson (AI assisted)

Introit *A Call to Arms* from *Tree of Light* by Riopy

Welcome Andrew Wilkin

Opening Words *Imbolc Wisdom for an Unsettled Nation*
words by A. Payson (AI assisted)

* Opening Hymn #170 *We Are A Gentle Angry People*

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.

CoRR Moment Anne Armstrong, CoRR Member

Choral Anthem *God's Gonna Set The World on Fire* UUCW Choir
arr. Moses Hogan

Reflection *Setting the World Aflame* Rev. Aaron Payson

Offertory *La fille au cheveux de Lin* by Claude Debussy
(Newcomers: please accept this service as our gift to you.
Do not feel obligated to participate in the offering at this time.)

Joys & Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

Responsive Reading *At the Forge of Returning Light*
words by A. Payson (AI assisted)

* Closing Hymn #1028 *The Fire of Commitment*

Benediction *Go Forth as Keepers of the Returning Light*
words by A. Payson (AI assisted)

Choral Postlude *How Can We Keep From Singing*
arr Gwynneth Walker

SERVICE NOTES

Our thanks to these volunteers

Worship Associates:

Moira Rouse & Andrew Wilkin

Audio-Visual Team:

Betty Jenewin, Paul Marr,
& Frank Sweetser

Online Hospitality:

Dawn Doud &
Rev. Cheryl Leshay

Church Photographer:

Betty Jenewin

Greeter & Connection Team:

Nancy Baffa & Vicky Biancolo

Fellowship Hour Sponsor:

Michele Hernandez & Sheri Linn

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, February 8

Beyond Enlightenment

Sunday, February 15

Annual Music Sunday
Music Director Matthew Johnsen

Sunday, February 22

Wishing For More & Wanting Less

Sunday, March 1

Stewardship Sunday

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!

* Please stand in body or in spirit

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!

UUCW Activity Calendar ~ February 1 - 8

Sunday, February 1 - Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

11:45 am - 1:15 pm COA Class Lounge
1:30 - 5 pm Social Threads Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 3

5 - 6:30 pm Private Rental Meeting Room 3

Friday, February 6

5 - 9 pm Rental Setup Sanctuary

Saturday, February 7

8 am - 10 pm Private Rental Fellowship Hall & Sanc/Lounge

Sunday, February 8 - Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

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



UUCW Spring 2026 Online Auction Fundraiser – Donations Needed! We are excited to offer a spring online auction to benefit the work of UUCW. The auction will be tied into our March 7th COOL BEANS COFFEE HOUSE and will run February 28th – March 7th. If you can assist us by asking your favorite place of business for a gift card donation or to offer a service or experience that you can provide yourself, we can generate a wonderful auction platform for the entire community to enjoy! Please scan the QR Code to let us know how you can help!



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.

Why does the Order of Service look different? As we get closer to the discontinuation of Publisher, the software we have used to put the Order of Service together for many years, we will be trying some new programs and fonts to see what works best. If you have trouble reading it, please let Jen know at office@uucworchester.org!

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 (on winter break)

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, noon - 4 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 - SUNDAY JANUARY 25

Sunday, January 25 pledges = \$2,200
FY2026 Pledges to date = \$129,089
Budgeted FY2026 Pledges = \$211,570
% of way towards Budget Goal 61%

Sunday, January 25 offering = \$406
FY2026 offering to date = \$9,887
Budgeted FY2026 offering = \$10,000
% of way towards Budget Goal 99%

Sunday, January 25 Change for Change = \$0
Sunday, January 25 Coffee Hour = \$0
(No Coffee Hour or Change for Change due to snow)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

140 Shore Drive, Worcester, MA 01605-3117

(508) 853-1942 · office@uucworchester.org · www.uucworchester.org

Responsive Reading *At the Forge of Returning Light*
words by A. Payson (AI assisted)

At Imbolc, the earth begins to stir. Beneath frozen ground, seeds awaken, and the first hints of spring whisper their promise.

We, too, feel the stirring—of hope, of courage, of the work that calls us toward renewal.

Brigid of the hearth teaches that warmth is a sacred gift, especially in a season of cold.

May we offer warmth to a nation chilled by fear, division, and uncertainty.

Brigid of the well teaches that healing flows when we dare to tell the truth about our wounds.

May we seek healing that is honest, compassionate, and rooted in justice.

Brigid of the forge teaches that transformation is not passive. It is shaped with intention, strength, and imagination.

May we become smiths of a more generous future, forging equity, dignity, and belonging for all.

At Candlemas, the returning light is blessed—not because winter is over, but because the light is growing.

We bless the growing light within us, trusting that small flames can guide us through great uncertainty.

In this season of thresholds, we honor the wisdom of those who kept the fires burning before us.

**And we commit ourselves to tending the flame now—
with courage in our hearts,
justice in our hands,
and hope lighting our way.**