

UUCW Activity Calendar ~ September 25 - October 3

Sunday, September 26 - Multi-platform Worship Service & RE, 10 am
Noon - 1:30 pm Name Change Town Hall Sanctuary

Sunday, October 3 - Multi-platform Worship Service & RE, 10 am
Noon - 1 pm Self Help October Mtg Lounge

Please visit the Church Calendar for more events (including groups that have resumed meeting at the church) by going to the website at www.uucworcester.org, or scan the QR box with your smartphone!



Please take time to **register your child for our fall programming**. Thank YOU! Please see the website or the most recent UUCW Message to register online!



Today's 50/50 collection to be taken up this Sunday is in service to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. We are delighted to welcome Jessica van der Stad, Area Director for the AFSP this Sunday.



Jessica van der Stad is the Massachusetts Area Director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). After losing her dad to suicide in 2008, Jessica realized she had a choice -- to let his death define and control her for the rest of her life, OR to use his story to help others. She became involved with AFSP after seeing a flyer in Starbucks for a local 'Walk to Fight Suicide'. Jessica's passion is to bring people together to remember loved ones, to provide strength to those who struggle, and to create HOPE.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) - Massachusetts Chapter is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. Our Chapter serves all of Massachusetts, bringing together people from all backgrounds who want to prevent suicide in their communities.

Regularly Scheduled UUCW Events/Community Groups (As of September 24)

Choir Rehearsal

Th, 7 - 8:30 PM
Sunday, 9 - 9:30 am

Evening Book Club

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

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry Setup

3rd Fri, 4 - 10 pm, Fell Hall

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

3rd Sat, 10 am - noon, Fell Hall

Men's Group

4th Fri, 7 - pm, Meeting Room 1

Monday Meditation Group

9:30 - 11:30 am, Online

REC Mobile Farmers Market

Thurs, 11 am - noon, Front Pk Lot
(June - October)

Staff Meeting

Mon, 10 am - noon, DRE Office

Women's Social Circle

2nd & 4th Sat, Off-Site/Online

Al-Anon Adult Children

Thurs., 7:30 pm, Lounge

Alcoholics Anonymous AA

Fri., 8 pm, Lounge

Debtors Anonymous DA

Tues., 7 pm, Lounge

Greater Worc. Humanists

2nd Tues, 6:30 pm F.Hall

Overeaters Anonymous

Sat., 7:30 am, Lounge

WGLN Rainbow Lunch

2nd & 4th Wed, 12 - 2 pm FH

OFFICE INFORMATION

Jennifer Landry, Office Administrator

COVID Info: Jen will continue to work from home at her discretion on days when events take place at the church when there is expected to be a high volume of visitors. Please see most recent Message for more Office News!

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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606
(508) 853-1942 · office@uucworcester.org ·
www.uucworcester.org
Office Hours: M, T, W: 9 am - 3 pm; Th: 9 am - 2 pm

THE OFFERING - LAST WEEK

<i>Sunday, Sept. 19 pledges</i>	= \$2,042.00
<i>FY2021 Pledges to date</i>	= \$49,241.00
<i>Budgeted FY2021 Pledges to date</i>	= \$43,541.67
<i>Sunday, Sept. 19 offering</i>	= \$245.00
<i>FY2021 offering to date</i>	= \$1,017.50
<i>Budgeted FY2021 offering to date</i>	= \$686.89

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION & EDUCATION

Religious Education: 10 - 11:15 am, Youth Group: 6 - 8 pm, For information on UUCW RE programs, please email the RE program at uucwre@gmail.com

TEXT ALERTS FROM UUCW

TEXT ALERTS from UUCW are now being offered. In case of cancellation of Worship/RE or other events, you can receive alerts on your smartphone. To sign up, text UUCWORCESTER to 84483. Please note that carrier SMS fees may apply.



SERVICE OF DEDICATION



OPENING WORDS (*Minister*)

Beloved, today is a holy day. For every day is holy when we are blessed with a life beginning. We gather during this time to recognize and dedicate this new life. We gather also to celebrate the hope and wonder that is childhood; to dedicate ourselves to the rich fulfillment of all that learning and care bring forth.

In so doing, we recognize the mystery of life as it begins its unfolding. We celebrate this mystery in song, word, prayer, and promise. Our gift is that of love freely given. With reverence and respect, we dedicate ourselves to the task of parenting and nurturing. Thus do we promise to love unconditionally and to strengthen the bonds of friendship.

RESPONSIVE READING ~ words by Kalil Gibran

Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you. And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children, as living arrows, are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and he bends you with his might so that his arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; for even as the archer loves the arrow that flies, so also does the archer love the bow that is stable.

CHARGE TO THE PARENTS (*Representative of Religious Education Program*)

Do you, the Parents who have come forth this morning, dedicate yourselves to the care and nurture of your children in love freely given; to provide for them, to protect them, to encourage their worthy endeavors as they journey forth into a life that is unique and special, to share with them all that love, joy, and blessings have to offer?

(Parents) ***"I Do"***



SERVICE OF DEDICATION

CHARGE To GODPARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & FAMILY

Do you, the Godparents, Grandparents, and family who have come forth this morning, dedicate yourselves to the care and nurture of this child (these children) in love freely given; and to support these parents, to embrace them as family, to encourage their growth as they journey forth into a life that is unique and special, to share with them all that love, joy, and blessings have to offer?

(God Parents, Grandparents and Family) ***"I Do"***

*CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE

We, the members and friends of The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, welcome you and your children. We hereby pledge ourselves to support, provide for, and nurture these children. We dedicate ourselves to providing all that is necessary for these children to grow to their fullest potential, as unique and precious lives within the bonds of this loving community.

ACT OF DEDICATION

(Minister) What name do you give this child?

(Parent(s)) - ***Child's Name***

(Minister) (***Child's Name***), with water, ancient symbol of purity, I anoint you and dedicate you to the source of your being. I proclaim now that you are loved by parents, family and friends; that you are, to all who know you and will come to know you, precious. May your life be filled with joy and blessings, now and from this day forward.

GIFTING OF A ROSE (President of the Board of Trustees)

May this rose, in all its beauty, stand as a symbol of this precious life and its unfolding in love and understanding.

PASTORAL PRAYER (Minister)

SPIRIT OF LIFE, SOURCE OF NEW BEGINNING . . . it is befitting that we come here today to dedicate our children, for it is the season of the child, precious and holy. May these young lives find love, compassion, understanding, wisdom, and patience in all whom they meet here. As we have dedicated ourselves to the process of nurturing, so too do we rededicate ourselves to nurture that child within; that part of ourselves that wonders, awestruck, at life's propensity toward beauty and rebirth. May we all find that nurturing presence within ourselves and in the world that surrounds and sustains us. AMEN.

* Please stand in body or in spirit.