ORDER of SERVICE
for Sunday, October 11, 2026

Believing in a community that unites all people

Pre-Service Quiet

Prelude *Quiet Ground* Music Director Matthew Johnsen

Chalice Lighting words by Sweethome Teacup
Emily Miller Mlčák, Ministerial Intern

Choral Introit *Heleluyan* UUCW Choir
Trad. Muskogee (creek) Indian Song

Welcome

Opening Words words by A. R. Payson

❋ **Opening Hymn #1017** *We Are Building…*

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.

8th Principle Moment Evan Wilson, 8th Principle Taskforce

Reading *Over and Over* from *A Failure of Flight* by Michael Milligan
Trigger Warning: This reading discusses domestic violence.

Reflection *Seeing is Being* Rev. Aaron Payson

50/50 Collection to benefit YWCA Domestic Violence Services
Bob Rentsch, YWCA DM Rep.

Offertory *Elegy* by Nobuyuki Tsujii
(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 *When We Choose to See* by A.R. Payson

❋ **Closing Hymn # 1053** *How Could Anyone Ever Tell You*

Benediction words by A.R. Payson

Postlude *Earth Mother Medley*

❋ Please stand in body or in spirit

SERVICE NOTES

Our thanks to these volunteers

Worship Associates:
Michael Milligan & Evan Wilson

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:
Maya Desai & Mary Paradiso

Fellowship Hour Sponsor:
Soup Sunday w/Kristen Payson

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
aining Present

Sunday, October 18
Hungry Ghosts
Ministerial Intern
Emily Miller Mlčák

Sunday, October 25
Of Shadows, Light, and Love

Sunday, November 1
Marigolds & Memory

Sunday, November 8
One Lamp is Enough

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 ~ October 11 - 18

Sunday, October 11 - Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

Saturday, October 17

2 pm - midnight	Refugee Ministry Event	Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 18 - Multi-Format Worship and Rel. Exploration at 10 am

11:30 am - 12:30 pm	GoTV Ballot Discussion	Meeting Room 3
11:45 am - 1:30 pm	OWL Class	Lounge

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

The Interfaith Afterlives of Jesus: Fall 2026 Greendale Ecumenical Study Group
Join members, friends, and clergy from the Greendale Ecumenical Group for their online Fall Study Group beginning Tuesday, October 6 @ 7 pm. We'll meet weekly on Tuesday evening through Dec. 8. To register and receive online access, please scan the QR code, or visit the church website for the link. This is a drop-in group, attendance at each session is not mandatory.

This "volume focuses on the diverse interfaith afterlives of Jesus. Moving beyond the explicitly Christian afterlives traced in volume one, this set of essays explores how Jesus has significant afterlives in Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Ruism and Mormonism, as well as selected secular afterlives in progressive Christianity. The contributors include religion scholars from the respective traditions, as well as faith practitioners reflecting on Jesus within their own religious context. While the essays are all grounded in critical scholarship, reflective practice, or both, they are expressed in nontechnical language that is accessible to interested nonspecialists."

For more information contact Rev. Aaron Payson (minister@uucworcester.org).

Religious Exploration & Education

10 - 11:15 am; Youth Group: 5:30 - 7 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.uucworcester.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@uucworcester.org) from 9 am - 3 pm on Tuesdays, unless she is handing family medical needs.

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
140 Shore Drive, Worcester, MA 01605-3117
(508) 853-1942 · office@uucworcester.org · www.uucworcester.org

Regularly Scheduled UUCW Events/ Community Groups

Addressing Racism Group
E/O Tues., 10 am - noon, Mtg.Room 2
UUCW Bell Ensemble (begins Oct. 19, 2026)
Monday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
Board of Management Meeting
3rd 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
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 (Begins Oct. 9, 2026)
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
Betty Machete Women's Uke Group
E/O Monday, 7 - 8:30 pm, FH
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

The Offering through Sunday, Oct. 4

Sunday, Oct. 4 pledges	= $6,641
FY2027 Pledges to date	= $49,229
Budgeted FY2027 Pledges	= $211,753
% of way towards Budget Goal	23%
Sunday, Oct. 4 Plate	= $312
FY2027 Plate to date	= $1,351
Budgeted FY2027 offering	= $12,900
% of way towards Budget Goal	10%
Sunday, Oct. 4 Change for Change	= $39
Sunday, Oct. 4 Coffee Hour	= $16

Responsive Reading *When We Choose to See* by A.R. Payson

We gather in a world where suffering is often hidden, and truth is often inconvenient.

Today we choose to see.

We choose to see those who live with violence behind closed doors, and we commit to building homes and communities where safety is real.

We choose to see the First Peoples of this land—whose stories, sovereignty, and survival call us to justice that does not end with words.

We honor the ancestors, the land, and the living cultures that continue to shape our shared future.

We choose to see those who come out, who cannot come out, who are still discovering who they are, and who risk everything to live authentically.

We affirm that every identity is sacred, every body beloved, every truth worthy of daylight.

We choose to see the grief of Israelis whose loved ones were killed or kidnapped, and the grief of all who suffer in the wake of violence and war.

We hold compassion for every innocent life, and we commit ourselves to the hard work of peace with justice.

Seeing is not the end of our work—it is the beginning.

When we choose to see, we choose to act.

When we choose to see, we choose to love.

When we choose to see, we choose to be fully human.