

September 2019

UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING

10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903

301-273-9745 • Fax 301-434-4051

www.uucss.org



Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

Nursery care and religious education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service. ASL interpreting is provided during the service.

There is one service at 10:30 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour.

Inside this issue...

Inspire 1–3

Learn 3-5

Connect 5–9

September 1: EXPANDING THE CIRCLE Chris Holbein

How do we as UU's determine which beings are "worthy" beneficiaries of our social justice work? Why do we so often act as though our own species is the only one that matters? How deeply have we explored our 7th Principle beyond traditional environmentalism? Chris will delve into these questions while offering some practical advice on how each of us can make a positive difference in our daily lives.

September 8: WATER CEREMONY: MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICE Rev. Lyn Cox

All water is one water. In its journey through the water cycle, a droplet can transform from solid to liquid to gas. It can travel underground, through the air, and across the sea. Even so, there is a unity to the water on earth, a commonality that flows through everything that lives. As our liturgical year cycles back to the beginning, we remember our unity as a multigenerational congregation, and we celebrate the possibility for transformation that we create by channeling our spiritual journeys through this community. You are welcome to bring a small amount of water (no more than ¼ cup) representing a place or a time that has touched your heart and soul. This service is for people of all ages. Parents and guardians of children ages 3 and under are welcome to entrust their children to the nursery staff or to bring them to the sanctuary to worship in their own way.

September 15: ONWARD AND UPWARD FOREVER? Rev. Lyn Cox

Looking back over the history of our nation and our faith, sometimes unexamined optimism has been co-opted by forces that turned out to have a destructive effect. The idea that people are perfectible, that growth is ever-onward, that we should expect a healthy business or institution to keep expanding forever...these ideas turned out to have environmental costs in a world of limited resources and unanticipated consequences. As we prepare for the September 20 climate strike, let's explore some of the theological and historical roots that contributed to climate crisis, and let's imagine new paradigms for sustainable spiritual growth and community care.

September 22: COVENANT Rev. Lyn Cox

As the hours of daylight and darkness hold each other in balance, we consider the balancing acts of holding each other in community through covenant. Covenant is less about laws and more about promises—about being bound together by something larger than ourselves and toward a greater purpose that we share. We might say we have expectations of each other, though we also expect that we'll fall short sometimes. As imperfect and yet aspiring humans, we balance acceptance and accountability, fear and hope, healthy boundaries and open hearts. We'll reflect on the messy and dynamic art of being held in covenant.

September 29: Begin Again in Love Rev. Lyn Cox

As our Jewish neighbors, family, and members of UUCSS prepare for Rosh Hashanah beginning the evening of September 29, we reflect on the expectations we had for the year just past and our expectations for the year ahead. Honoring the broken places and yet lifting up possibilities, we make space for reconciliation and renewal.

INSPIRE

Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox A People of Expectation



Happy new year! As we come around to a fresh liturgical year, our congregation is aflutter with expectation. As we travel together through the coming months, we'll discern which expectations to keep, which expectations to let go of, and which ones to update as the world changes and we change with it.

For the 2019–2020 liturgical year, we're coming back around to Soul Matters, a network of UU congregations exploring theme-based ministry together in worship, small group ministry, and social media. UUCSS had begun considering Soul Matters a few years ago under the previous settled ministers, and we've decided to give it another go. Soul Matters is a subscription-based community. Every month, the Religious Education (RE) staff, Soul Matters small group

leaders, and I will receive resources related to the theme of the upcoming month. We'll share those with RE leaders, the Worship Committee, and other volunteers who want to help make the most of this project. RE resources for Soul Matters might come in handy for Art Assembly, multigenerational worship, and resources for families.

Monthly themes focus on spiritual values that are important in Unitarian Universalism. You might notice themes of the month woven into the descriptions for some of our September services. Don't be surprised if the theme of the month comes up in opening readings at committee meetings or affinity groups, in Facebook discussions, and in random conversations in the Community Hall. We're hoping that engaging with Soul Matters materials will be a unifying force in the congregation, something that guides us to support one another on a shared journey.

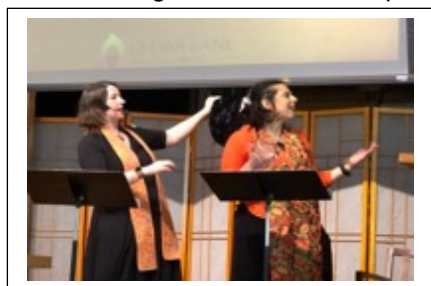
The theme of the month for September is, "What does it mean to be a people of expectation?" On the one hand, some expectations are helpful to have. Our sacred promises to one another in covenant are, in a sense, a set of expectations. In the 2018 Ware Lecture at the UUA General Assembly, **Brittany Packnett** spoke about the expectations we have of one another in a justice-seeking community, particularly the expectations that marginalized people have of those who have relative privilege. She said, "Why not ask your community every day, every week, every quarter exactly what they expect of you and then use everything you got to meet or exceed those very expectations in exchange for justice? This is our work. And I promise it pays the very best dividends..."

On the other hand, sometimes our expectations are based on false assumptions, or on a sense of entitlement, or on a shortage of creativity. There are times when letting go of expectations is healthy. There are times when being open to surprise is the door to inspiration. We can hope for an outcome, and we can share a vision for what might be, yet some of our most transformative spiritual and societal work comes from pursuing a goal without assurance of success. We can put energy into something without necessarily expecting we will achieve it in the short term. Perhaps some of our expectations are best reframed as working theories.

At this time last year, the congregation had some hopes and some working theories about the way the year and the ministerial search would unfold. UUCSS ended up on a different path than the one we were expecting, and yet I have heard members express a positive attitude about moving forward. There can be surprise benefits and unexpected blessings in traveling the path we find ourselves on, even if it's not the one we thought we'd be on a year ago. There are reasons to believe that another year of interim ministry will be fruitful for the congregation. There are reasons to look forward to working with a new Interim RE professional. We'll do our best to prepare for the future, knowing that our predictions are a working theory.

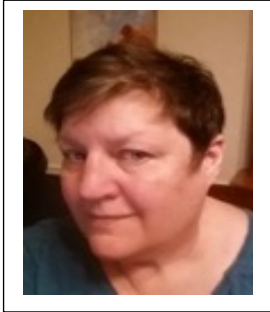
Let's set goals and intentions for our congregational and spiritual lives, and let's laugh along with the twists of fate when we make unexpected discoveries. I look forward to the year ahead, whatever it may bring.

August 2019 Friendship Service at River Road UU Church



INSPIRE (continued)

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



I'm very excited to be starting another new year at UUCSS. I hope everyone has had time to relax and rejuvenate during the summer as we begin this new church year, because we have a great deal planned, and the year is just beginning.

Join us September 8th after services at the potluck lunch and activity fair. Look for additional information from the Membership Committee. We'll start off the year sharing food, reconnecting, and finding out what the committees are planning. Bring a dish, have a conversation with someone you know, meet someone new. Rejoice in our community.

We will hold the annual leadership retreat on September 21st and 22nd. This year's leadership retreat will partially focus on the goals established in our 3-year rolling strategic plan. We will plan the coordination of the necessary stakeholder teams to help ensure

successful implementation of Year 1 goals. We will also spend time examining church governance structures. Additionally, **Charles Alexander** will lead a session to help us begin to better understand the impact of race and culture on decisionmaking.

Please look for pledge statements in your email for the 2019–2020 pledge year. The statement will include pledge information as well as your capital campaign contributions. In the past, UUCSS has not sent out quarterly statements. This has left many members wondering how much they had sent toward their pledge or where they stood on their capital campaign donations. This year we will begin sending quarterly statements. If you have questions about the statements or need a statement from the 2018–2019 pledge year please contact collector@uucss.org.

To support our congregation in our search for a settled minister, **Anna Molpus, Beverly Schnetzler, Jeremy Holt, Katie Haag, Lisa Schumaker, Sharon Snyder, and Steve Hirsch** have all agreed to serve on the Search Committee. While the information-gathering will not be as intense as last year, our Search Committee will still need your support and input. We thank them for taking on this critical work in support of UUCSS.

And a warning. You may have already seen this in an all-church email. Scam artists are using email that appears to be from Rev Lyn to try and get people to buy gift cards to support a congregant in need. I'm including this warning here because other UU churches have received similar email that appears to be from Board members or other members of staff. Please note we will not request donations of gift cards. If you receive one of these emails please do not respond.

LEARN

UPDATES FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

It's time to register children and youth for 2019–2020 religious education (RE)! New classes begin September 15. If you have not already done so, please register each child who will be attending any classes or RE activities. This year, UUCSS plans to offer the following:

- Nursery (toddlers through age 3)
- Preschool (ages 3 and 4)
- Kindergarten–1st grade
- 2nd–3rd
- 4th–5th
- Middle school (6th–8th)
- Coming of Age (COA, a special course for youth in 9th grade)
- Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU, for graduates of COA through high school seniors).

For online RE registration, go to

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScILRKfuZyMCUXqYDJkvyknkQDUSoghdtCnjPUAT81ON_3eiA/viewform.

LEARN (continued)

Religious Education

This is an abbreviated version of RE offerings for the year. For more complete information, please see the RE edition of the all-church email published on August 19.

We also hope to be able to offer an Our Whole Lives (OWL) class for Junior High (grades 7 and 8) beginning in the fall, and middle elementary (grades 4–6) later in the year. There is a question as to whether there are enough students to offer Junior High OWL, and so it is vitally important that families register their students. If you have friends with youth in grades 7 or 8 who will commit to consistent attendance and who support OWL values, we will consider enrolling non-member families, and may charge a small fee.

The first day of regular RE classes for this year is Sunday, September 15. Like last year, kindergarten and up will begin with adults in the worship service at 10:30 and will proceed to their classes after a message or a story. Nursery and preschool children may begin in their groups at 10:30, or may begin in the service with older children and join their classes in progress.

After the service on September 15, please join RE Assistant **Michael Knaapen** and RE Committee Chair **Erica Anderson** for an “Open House” meeting in the sanctuary. We’ll go over this year’s curriculum resources, point out some upcoming events, and answer your questions about the program and the RE staff transition.

RE volunteers at UUCSS are a mixed community of parents and non-parents. You are invited to consider joining this team of volunteers who are sharing the ministry of religious education! Teaching is a great way to get to know church families more deeply and learn more about Unitarian Universalism. If you are interested in helping with RE, you can sign up using this registration form at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScILRKfuZyMCUXqYDJKvyknkQDUSoghdTCnjPUAT81ON_3eiA/viewform if you are registering a child. There is also an online form for non-parent volunteers. Contact **Michael Knaapen** at REassistant@uucss.org if you want to teach or to find out more or to learn about other volunteer opportunities that support RE.

The Interim Director of Religious Education Search Committee, **Patti Poss**, **Melissa Hampton**, and **Bobbi Pohl**, are assisting **Rev. Lyn Cox** in the search for an Interim Director of Religious Education (IDRE). We have also received significant assistance from VP for Personnel **Stephanie McConachie**. The IDRE Search Committee is seeking an experienced RE professional who will serve until June 2021. An IDRE will help us to evaluate our educational goals and approach, help us discern the place and administration of adult RE, and provide tools to help us approach the future with zest. The deadline for applicants is August 31. We hope to ideally have the new person start on October 1.

It is in the IDRE’s job description for the 2019–2020 year to help UUCSS with discernment about adult RE, but not to administer the adult program. Although we won’t have a staff member or a committee to hold the center of an adult RE program this year, members may offer adult classes or adult RE events on an ad-hoc basis. If you have an idea for a class, speak to a member of the Program Council (chaired this year by **Doneby Smith**, vice chaired by **Michael LeBlanc**) to find out more about how to reserve space in the church and use the church’s communication channels to get the word out.

UUCSS’s RE program is one of the jewels that makes this congregation special, and it wouldn’t be possible without the broad participation and commitment we enjoy from volunteers and families. Please contact RE Assistant Michael Knaapen at REassistant@uucss.org with your questions and ideas, or express interest in any of the items mentioned here.

UUCSS 101 for UUCSS Visitors

If you are a visitor who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSS in particular or about the process for becoming a member, please join us at our monthly UUCSS 101 on Sunday, September 15, for an informal gathering with folks from the Membership Committee. We meet following the service in the Triangle Room, which is adjacent to the Community Hall where coffee hour is underway. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, and bring your questions. We look forward to seeing you.

LEARN (continued)

Information Technology (IT) Committee

Your IT Committee operates the WiFi system. We want folks to know a few things about it. Committee members are **Steve Leete, Ken lobst, Rob Dahlstrom, and Andrea Tanner**.

Members and guests are free to use the guest WiFi, with credentials of "uucss" and "building the dream." Keep in mind that walls can block the signal; the 2.4 GHz is generally a stronger signal than 5 GHz, and both use the same credentials.

People experiencing problems with WiFi should talk to a committee member or email IT@uucss.org, and describe the problem in as much detail as possible.

For streaming video or other bandwidth-intensive official functions in the Sanctuary main room, arrange for the Audio Visual Technology (AV) Committee to set it up, as they can use a hard-wire Ethernet connection.

For official use, there is another WiFi service available with unpublicized credentials, which can be shared with those needing them. This WiFi has better placement of repeaters, fewer users, and is less likely to run into connection or bandwidth problems. Staff, Board members, and committee chairs will generally know these credentials.

CONNECT

Check out the Sunday Support Team!

The Sunday Support Team provides care and coverage for every Sunday morning service at UUCSS year-round. We are a large committee of approximately 40 WONDERFUL volunteers who make sure that you are greeted and welcomed every week; you are guided to the clean and orderly sanctuary for worship and personal time; your children are safely led to their RE classrooms; your generous monetary offerings are collected and counted; your valuable attendance and participation are recorded for our larger denominational count; your friends and visitors are greeted and oriented, including your deaf friends and family; and your appetites are fed with fair trade coffee and Oreos and homemade goodies.

Sounds fun? IT IS!! **And we want new folks on our five teams.** We are a necessary committee where one only has to work once every 5 weeks, and we do not have other regular meetings. Please come and see us for more information at the activities fair on Sept. 8!

JAZZ@UUCSS

presents

Joshua Espinoza Trio CD Release Party!

Sunday, September 22, 2019 ♦
4-5:30 p.m.

Joshua Espinoza, piano
Mikel Combs, bass
Jaron Lamar Davis, drums



CONNECT (continued)

Jazz @ UUCSS

Join us for the Fall edition of **jazz@uucss** with pianist **Joshua Espinoza** and his trio, with **Mikel Combs** on bass and **Jaron Lamar Davis** on drums. Baltimore pianist Joshua Espinoza blends and bends genres into original compositions and arrangements with a style that is tastefully modern, yet firmly rooted in the jazz tradition. Josh has played with renowned artists on national stages, including the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the DC Jazz Festival. In June 2018, Josh was a finalist in the Ellis Marsalis International Jazz Piano Competition, and he was named "Most Promising Semi-Finalist" in the 2016 UNISA International Jazz Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa.

Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 students/seniors) Children 12 and under free

jazz@uucss is a quarterly concert series produced by the UUCSS Music Committee and jazz scholar **Bertrand Uberall** to provide an affordable, listener-friendly venue for jazz in the DC area, create new audiences for outstanding young musicians, and foster connections between UUCSS and the local jazz community.



Chairs: Emily Tien, Linda Barrett, & Jim Street

This Year's Theme: Under the Sea!

The annual UUCSS auction is one of the church's most enjoyable events as well as a terrific fundraiser. It is an evening of great fun and fellowship at which donations made by UUCSS members and friends are auctioned off to others within the church family.

You will find everything from terrific things such as paintings, pottery, and other artistic creations to homemade baked goods made for sale the night of the auction or promised for a later date. Many members and friends offer special dinners or outings, or offer services or lessons. Each donated event offers more opportunities to get to know fellow members and friends better.

Donation Suggestions & Submission Form

Know what you'd like to donate? Enter them using our online form at <https://uucss.org/auction/donate>.

Not sure what to give? Think about what events, outings, meals or services you would like to bid on, and would enjoy hosting. Be creative. Here's a list of suggestions, including items from members' wish lists:

Donation Suggestions

- Meals
- Ethnic Dinners
- Activities/Events
- Trips/Groups/Family Outings
- Services
- Workshops/How To
- Seasonal Events
- Yardwork/Gardening
- Childcare
- Pet Sitting Personal Organizing

Members' Wish Lists

- Handyman/room painting
- In-home computer help (slow computer, Word/Excel, social media)
- Shelving installation
- Jewelry making/repair
- Learn massage
- Learn basic bike repair/riding
- Class in basic estate planning
- Learn UUCSS secret history

See last year's catalog for more ideas.

CONNECT (continued)

UUCSS AUCTION

The donation deadline is *September 30*, but don't wait until the last minute. Submit your donation(s) today at <https://uucss.org/auction/donate>.

Childcare is available. Reserve your spot today: Reserve a space via e-mail to childcare@uucss.org.

Be sure to include: ☐ Names and ages of children ☐ Information on allergies or other special needs

The deadline to sign up for ASL interpretation is October 20. Email auction@uucss.org to sign up.

Volunteers needed!

We need volunteers to set up for, run, and clean up after the auction. With enough volunteers, everyone will have plenty of opportunity to participate in and enjoy a well-run event. Let us know if you can help with an email to auction@uucss.org.

Dress up for the Under the Sea Auction

Theme-related clothing/costumes are encouraged, and are part of what makes this such a special event. Be creative!

Questions?

For more information and answers to any questions about this year's auction, or for a copy of last year's auction catalog, please contact the Auction Committee at auction@uucss.org.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 8, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Back to church potluck and activity fair.

SEPTEMBER 15, 11:45 a.m. UUCSS 101, Triangle Room.

SEPTEMBER 22, 4:00–5:30 p.m. jazz@uucss presents the Joshua Espinoza Trio, Sanctuary.

SEPTEMBER 27–29. Catoctin Mountain fall retreat, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD.

OCTOBER 6, 4:00 p.m. UUSJ Social Justice Awards Gala 2019, UU Church of Arlington.

NOVEMBER 9, 5:30–9:30 p.m. “Under the Sea” church auction.

Save the Date

September 27-29 Catoctin Mountain Fall Retreat



CONNECT (continued)

SEPTEMBER CHARITY OF THE MONTH

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

The mission of Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) (<https://mcch.net>) is to provide solutions in Montgomery County to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. MCCH's vision is to end homelessness in Montgomery County by building a community where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. MCCH's mission and vision are aligned with the population goals in the Home, Together federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, as well as the Montgomery County: Continuum of Care Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. In partnership with Montgomery County and other local providers, MCCH has met the first population goal to end veteran homelessness in 2016. MCCH continues its partnership with Montgomery County in pursuit of the remaining population-focused goals to: end

chronic homelessness in 2019; prevent and end homelessness for families with children and youth by 2020; and set a path to ending all types of homelessness. MCCH serves more than 1,700 individuals each year. Its services include emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

JANE LARRICK

Jane Larrick is the volunteer of the month for September. Jane joined UUCSS in April 1991 after her friend and colleague **Drew Riggs** invited her to come and hear him play at a service. She had been looking for a community of like-minded people and instantly felt she had found it at UUCSS.

Jane is currently the UUCSS caring coordinator and co-editor of the *Unitar* newsletter. She has been a member of the choir for at least 25 years. During her 28-plus years at UUCSS, she has held numerous Board and Program Council positions.

Jane recommends that new members resist pressure to make long-term volunteer commitments until they find a cause that really inspires them.

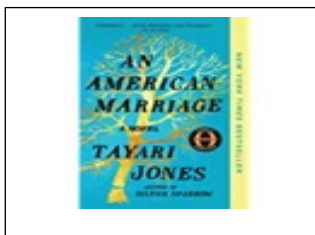
Jane says this church has taken the place of the community of her youth, where she felt known and comfortable. Her happiest memories at UUCSS involve singing, her Inreach and Creative Aging groups, and auction events where she's gotten to make new friends.

Jane's favorite leisure activities are singing, playing the recorder, jogging, hiking, and reading.

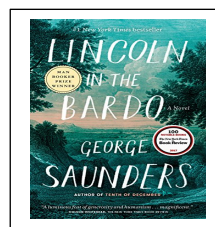
WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Welcome back to UUCSS and to the women's book group. We are an informal gathering of interested readers of various ages and backgrounds, and the group has met continually since 2000, though we do not expect or ask for a long-term commitment. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, 7:30–9:30 pm. It is possible for rides to be arranged. The book group coordinator is **Deborah Weiner**, and the contact email is dweiner04@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact me or talk to me at church. Thank you for your interest! Our books for the next 2 months are as follows:

September: *An American Marriage*, Tayari Jones

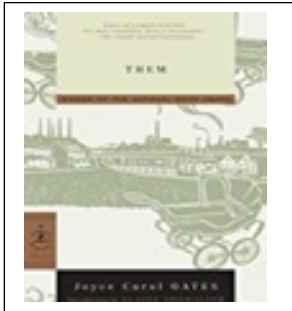


October: *Lincoln in the Bardo*, George Saunders



CONNECT (continued)

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP



We are reading *Them* by Joyce Carol Oates. Of her 58 novels, *Them* is considered one of her best. It won the U.S. National Book Award for Fiction in 1970.

We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 8, at the home of **Jerry Herbers**, 1215 Highland Drive, Silver Spring. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and come to the next meeting.

Hope to see you there!



Administrative Update

As we say goodbye to our summer fun—we welcome autumn toward the end of September, along with an exciting and always interesting new church year!

Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator



Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
10309 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

Staff and Board President

Rev. Lyn Cox
Interim Minister
interimminister@uucss.org

Michael Holmes
Music Director
musicdirector@uucss.org

Michael Knaapen
Religious Education
REassistant@uucss.org

Melinda Yalom
Church Administrator
administrator@uucss.org

Tamara Bowman
Board President
president@uucss.org

Submissions to the **Uniter** are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org.

Format guidelines for submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Microsoft Word file or in the body of an email that can be copied and pasted. Graphics must be in a format in which they can be repositioned and resized—jpeg is greatly preferred.

The newsletter is published September–June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Co-editors are **Jane Larrick** and **Stephanie McConachie**.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at administrator@uucss.org.

To receive a mailed copy of the **Uniter** for the year, please send **\$24 to UUCSS, Attention: Collector**.

Church office hours
Monday: 1–4 p.m.
Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Church website: www.uucss.org