

September 2018

UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903
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www.uucss.org



Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

September 2 *Labor and Delivery*

Guest Preacher Walter Clark

Labor Day started as a way to honor those whose work made our country's economy strong at the turn of the 19th century. Since then the labor force in American has changed, so how should we honor those who labor now?



September 9

The Living Well Rev. Lyn Cox

The congregation re-gathers as a whole all-ages community for the annual Water Communion. As our Jewish neighbors prepare for Rosh Hashana, we cycle around to the beginning of our own liturgical year, and we notice the resonances between our faiths. We draw from the living well of this community and tradition, and we give back to this living well through the inspiration and love we share. You are welcome to bring a small amount of water from a place that touches your soul, or to use the symbolic water that we will have available in the service.

September 16 *The Book of Life* Rev. Lyn Cox

As our Jewish neighbors get ready to observe Yom Kippur, we may be inspired to take stock of our own spiritual lives and on the responsibilities we have for each other.



Certain practices can help us to strengthen ourselves and our congregation. Return to sources of strength and resilience. Maintain a spiritual practice. Connect with and care for the divinity in each other.



September 23 *Be Here Now* Rev. Lyn Cox

Mindfulness, being fully present in the moment, sounds simple. Simple is different from easy. There are a few approaches that may help us get closer to mindfulness. We'll explore together where we are, when we are, and how we are.

September 30 *Deaf Access and the UUCSS Community* Miako Villanueva, PhD, CI/CT

The service will spotlight Deaf Access and reflect on its meaning here at UUCSS. We'll consider together how being inclusive of the Deaf community fits with our UU values and what it has meant to us specifically at UUCSS. We will look both to our history of Deaf Access and into the future, articulating why this is an important piece of who we are as a community.

Nursery care and religious education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service.
ASL interpreting is provided during the service. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m.
Coffee hour will take place after the service.

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INSPIRE

Column by Rev. Lyn Cox, Interim Minister

Dear Ones,

Our time together is off and running! I'm so glad to be able to work with this dedicated, creative, musical congregation. As of this writing, I have enjoyed leading two Sunday worship services and have been honored to officiate at one memorial service. I appreciate the members of the staff and Board and the Music, Property, Tech, Religious Education, and Worship Committees (among others) who have helped me to arrive and get started.



The Interim period is an occasion for a congregation to try new things, using these new experiences to delve into questions of mission and congregational identity. Even with a year of this behind you, there is plenty of strength and opportunity in the congregation for more experimentation ahead. Figuring out who you are and where you are headed as a people will help you to be the best partners in shared ministry you can be with your next settled minister. As I said in my first sermon, we can follow the wisdom of Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*, "Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy!"

According to the interfaith professional association the Interim Ministry Network, goals for this time can be organized into five focus points: Heritage, Connections, Mission, Leadership, and Future.

"Heritage" involves understanding and coming to terms with your past, deciding what you want to carry forward from that legacy, and what you are ready to move into the category of past experience. "Connections" generally means institutional relationships with the interfaith community, justice partners, constituencies outside of members, and denominational connections such as the Central East Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). "Mission" is related to your purpose and activities of shared ministry as a congregation. "Leadership" discernment includes understanding and improving governance, leadership training and succession, clarifying roles, and having the best possible relationship between the congregation and the staff. "Future" relates to strategic planning, stewardship, and other manifestations of the hopes and plans of the congregation. The five focus points are not linear; congregations engage with all five throughout their interim period, though the emphasis may shift over the course of 24 months.

For instance, I gather that Heritage was a focus during the early months of the last program year, with cottage meetings and interviews giving people time to process their feelings about the previous several years. Your 65th anniversary, with the lay leaders of longtime UUCSS ministries leading worship every few weeks, is another Heritage activity. We'll continue to keep Heritage on the radar this year, even as we shift more of our energy to the other points. The five focus points relate to some of the priorities that members, friends, and leaders have communicated as I get to know the congregation.

In conversations with members and friends so far, three themes have been most prominent:

- I am noticing a deep interest in building community; including practicing covenantal behavior, strengthening systems of mutual care and ongoing membership education, making intergenerational connections, and simply spending time together as a congregation.
- Another thing I am gleaning is a commitment to the ongoing work of anti-racism, anti-oppression, diversity, and multiculturalism. This work manifests in justice advocacy out in the world as well as the internal work of dismantling the attitudes and habits of oppression that we unconsciously bring in from the larger culture.
- A third theme in conversations so far relates to the future. Members are interested in looking ahead, perhaps constructing a 3-year plan that will help your new minister understand how you and they might journey together.

All of these are in the context of vivacious engagement in ongoing ministry of the congregation, such as trying new things in worship and strengthening community partnerships through music. I expect the Board, Program Council, and Operations Council will discuss these themes when we met for the Leadership Retreat on September 15.

We will soon have a better sense of how the five Focus Points of Interim Ministry and the congregation's goals will dovetail in the coming year.

Institutional transformation is exciting, though it can also be disorienting, tiring, and mysterious. I find parallels with spiritual practice and faith development in this respect. Becoming the best versions of ourselves as people or as a congregation is never easy, but it is worthwhile, and it can be joyful. I have faith that this congregation is strong enough, connected enough, gifted enough, and loving enough to make the most of this interim opportunity. I believe in you. In addition to themes about the congregation I have gathered from members and friends, I am also gathering questions.

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To answer a few briefly:

- I am often in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; however, you should make an appointment if you wish to speak with me.
- I generally like to be called “Rev. Lyn” (please note the singular “n”) by members of the congregation, and am fine with “Rev. Cox” or “Pastor” if that is a better fit for you.
- I do accept friend requests on Facebook from members of the congregation, and will disconnect when I leave the congregation. You can also follow me on Twitter @RevLynCox or on Tumblr at <http://revlyncox.tumblr.com>.
- I chose to come to UUCSS because I see you as a congregation with great potential for ministering to each other and to the world around you, and I think some of the skills I bring will be of use in the work you have ahead of you.
- If you have other questions, you might find the answers at <http://revlyncox.com>, or we can make an appointment.

Again, I am glad to be here. Let’s rev up the congregational equivalent of the Magic School Bus and get on board together. Seatbelts, everyone!

Take care,
Rev. Lyn

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President

Welcome to another year of change at UUCSS. This year we welcome Rev. Lyn as our interim minister. Rev. Lyn officially started August 1. She has been working diligently to learn more about UUCSS and the work she can do in the coming year. We have also launched our search for our settled minister. Keep an eye out for upcoming meetings and surveys from the Search Committee so you can take part in finding our new minister.

Some things do not change. UUCSS continues to be a welcoming congregation. Continues to support our community as it struggles to bend toward justice. Continues supporting our deaf congregants. Continues to support our principles. Continues to offer the spiritual sustenance and community that draws visitors to continue attending and join our church home.

Amidst all the change and everything we are accomplishing, remember to thank those who are helping, ask for help when you need it, and just be and rest when you need.

I look forward to the year ahead as your president
Tamara Bowman

Worship Committee Report: Survey Results and Action Steps Preston Mears on Behalf of the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee reviewed the worship survey results at our August meeting. The results support our continuing with one service at 10:30 a.m. We received 77 surveys representing 100 persons, with 12 of them being under the age of 12. Two-thirds of the respondents had generally attended the 9:30 service, and one-third, the second service. However, there were only 3 respondents who preferred the 11:00 a.m. service, and only one person said they preferred the 9:00 a.m. time. The 10:30 time received the highest number, with 10:00 a.m. getting the next highest count—hence the decision of the committee to continue with the current 10:30 service start time.

There comments of members were also instructive. Several noted that they were involved with Religious Education (RE) and liked being able to attend the service. There was a comment stating that it was hard for them to make an earlier service, a feeling shared by some teenagers as well! The most recurring comment was stating a preference for one service, and, as one respondent phrased it, “I prefer one service so we can all be together.”

The committee was not pleased with the survey tool, which turned out to be an inflexible one in some respects, making it more difficult for some members to respond. While the numbers approach 50 percent of the congregation, more would have been better! The upcoming Search Committee will be conducting a survey and will be able to build on our experience.

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Based on the survey and on other feedback from the congregation, the Worship Committee, in consultation with the RE Committee, will be supporting some changes to the weekly service. As we did last year, we will worship as a whole multigenerational community for the entire hour about once a month. On other Sundays, we will begin the service with multigenerational time for about 15 minutes, joining together in opening rituals, a hymn, and a story or message before children and teachers transition to RE. (YRUU will make their own determination about attending the beginning of worship, and intensive groups such as Junior High OWL may go directly to class.) Not only will adding mini-multigenerational segments each week mitigate the loss of the second service for teachers, we hope this will build community during a year when our congregation has expressed a wish to spend more time together. We also hope that spending more time in worship will help children and youth feel that the sanctuary is their space, too, and that UUism is a faith that includes them. Water Communion on September 9 will be a full-length multigenerational service. The mini-multigenerational segments at the beginning of most services will begin on September 16.

In order to make the most of our multigenerational time each week in worship, we will move announcements to the end of the service beginning on September 9. We will continue to invite a Board member to offer these invitations to community engagement. In addition, we hope that announcements at the end of the worship service will make it easier to remember to follow up (fill in sign-up sheets, speak to the contact person, pick up the flyer) after the service. The Search Committee (and only the Search Committee) will occasionally give their own updates, which will also serve the important function of helping members get to know these leaders in whom we have placed so much trust.

The Worship Committee looks forward to working with our new Interim Minister, the Rev. Lyn Cox, on services this year. Rev. Lyn expressed interest in hearing from the Worship Committee on big questions such as the purpose of worship, and on asking the committee to be a sounding board for consideration of future changes. At our meeting, we filled in the gaps and completed most of the worship calendar for the rest of 2018. There are many exciting services ahead.



UUCSS History: The Road to Welcoming by Jo Paoletti

We are a Welcoming Congregation. That's an official designation, not my opinion. You can see the certificate we received from the UUA in the lower level entrance to the Sanctuary. But what does that mean, and what did it take to earn that piece of paper? The Welcoming Congregation program was introduced by the UUA in 1990 as the result of a multiyear, nationwide study of UU's attitudes concerning sexual orientation. The findings exposed "exposed many negative attitudes, deep prejudices, and profound ignorance" that resulted in LGBT people being excluded from full

participation in UU congregations. The Welcoming Congregation program was a 2-year education and discussion program designed to change those attitudes, correct those prejudices, and replace ignorance with knowledge and understanding, and to identify congregations who had "done the work" and were ready to truly welcome lesbian, gay, and transgender members and staff.

With the encouragement of minister **Jim Bank**, UUCSS organized a Welcoming Congregation Committee and began the process in 1994. The first chair was **Elmo Miller**, who with his partner, **Lillian Mueller**, had been active for many years in PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). When Elmo and Lillian moved to New Mexico a few months later, Janet Riley stepped up to keep the process going. They were joined by the Social Action and Adult Religious Education committees, and this combined effort resulted in a robust schedule of events and opportunities for discussion.

Here's a sample of the activities:

- Film series (Wedding Banquet, My Beautiful Launderette, and many others, with discussions led by Elmo, Lillian, or Worship Committee member **Sandra Dwiggins**)
- A day-long workshop with speakers from PFLAG, short videos, and discussion
- A summer service featuring "coming out" stories from UUCSS members, with music by Bread and Roses Feminist Singers (now Fortissima)
- Participation in fundraising and service activities benefitting the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Food and Friends, and the DC AIDS Walk

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- Lobbying Annapolis in favor of the anti-discrimination bills, which extended civil rights protections based on sexual orientation. (The Antidiscrimination Act was finally passed in 2001, after 11 years of attempts.)

Before we strain ourselves patting our own backs, consider this:

Although we added a statement of inclusion to our constitution “with little turmoil...nearly unanimous” by congregational vote in November 1996, the survey done by the 1999 ministerial search committee found that 50 percent of the respondents believed UUCSS would not accept a gay or lesbian minister. (For comparison, that is the same proportion who felt we might balk at a minister under 35, over 60, someone with a disability, or a minister who “believed in a personal god”.)

But there’s also this: The Welcoming Congregation process did result in genuine learning and change. We learned about ourselves, and also about friends, coworkers, and family members who had felt they had to conceal their identities from us. We learned that change takes time, even when it is change we *really* desire. Janet Riley, in a letter to the congregation in the fall of 1996, said it well:

“It is also our hope that the vote, which is a culmination, will not represent an end to the Welcoming Congregation process. Rather, we hope it will be an affirmation and a new beginning for a broader and more diverse church community”

For more about the Welcoming Congregation program, see

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>

LEARN

Message From Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education

You, Me, and What It Means to Multi-G

This past year we celebrated the 65th anniversary of UUCSS. Through the past six decades and half, our congregation came together to build the church, establish social justice programming, start religious education for our children and youth, and grow relationships with our local community. All these things happened with starts and stops, hiccups and pitfalls, and sometimes smoothly, *but they happened because folks of this congregation* came together and made it happen. They happened because this church is an important place to its members. They happened because people cared. We are still going through the healing process and recovering into a healthy congregation. I’ve heard consistently from folks both young and old that people want to come together as a church. I’ve also heard that people want to feel at home in this church. In search of this unity, we will be trying an experiment together by having the children and youth start off Sunday in the Sanctuary with the rest of the congregation and stay for part of the service. This gives us the opportunity to build bridges between the children and youth and the older generations of the church, thus coming together as a community as well giving the children and youth the chance to learn the hymns and liturgy and start putting down roots in understanding what it means to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist.

Children and youth will be given their own set of rows in the Sanctuary in the front so all eyes can see. This means parents and guardians don’t have to worry about watching over them and losing their own experience in worship. It also means children and youth will build deeper bonds with each other. Additionally, we’ll have adults in the children and youth rows to help as needed and guide them out of the Sanctuary to their RE teachers. Children and youth will stay in service at least through the Chalice Lighting, Song of Exultation, one hymn, and a Message.

The Message may be a story, poem, or reading that relates to all generations of the congregation—not just the youngest! This gives us a chance as a congregation to experience worship as a whole together, to be in fellowship with the sacred and each other, and to heal together in holy space. This expands multigenerational services from a once-a-month occurrence to a weekly event.

We will still be having monthly multigenerational services where children and youth stay for the whole time. Our first one will be Water Communion on September 9. Please bring some water from a place close to your heart. After this, we will officially start the act of starting worship together on September 16 with the start of the RE year.

The RE Committee and I look forward to your feedback during this trial run. If you can’t find me in the halls of the church, you can always email me at dre@uucss.org

With a full heart,

Catherine, *Director of Religious Education*

LEARN

Upcoming Religious Education Events

Swim Party

Come swim and catch up with your UUCSS friends on Labor Day! 1–4 o'clock at Martin Luther King Jr Public Pool at 1201 Jackson Road, Silver Spring. The pool features water slides, a diving board, and a tot pool. Admission is \$5 per Montgomery County resident, \$8 per nonresident.

YRUU Sleepover 5

Calling all 10th–12th graders! YRUU will be having a sleepover on Saturday, September 8, to kick off the start of the church year. We will gather at 7 p.m. to order pizza. Bring your sleepover stuff, snacks, money for our traditional midnight trip to 7-11, and ideas for what things we should do this church year. On Sunday morning, YRUU will attend Water Communion. See you there!

RE Teacher Training

All folks teaching and advising children and youth this year are required to attend training. Please attend training on Saturday, September 1, 1–4, or Thursday, September 6, 6:30–9:30. If you are unable to make either of these, please email **Catherine** at dre@uucss.org

Water Communion

On September 9, please bring water in a bottle or glass from a place close to your heart. This is a multigenerational service. Afterwards, we will celebrate being together again after the summer with a potluck in the Sanctuary Foyer. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848afac23a64-homecoming> with what dish you'll bring and to volunteer. Don't forget to label your dish and include whether it is vegan, vegetarian, or gluten-free. (Please paste the url into your browser.)

Religious Education School Year Begins!

September 16! All children and youth will start in the Sanctuary.

Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth 2018–2019

Religious education is offered for kindergarten through 12th grade, including Coming of Age for 9th grade and YRUU for 10th grade and above. Our theme this year is World Religions. These classes start on September 16.

For OWL this year, we are offering K–1 and 7–8. K–1 will begin meeting in October, while 7–8 will start on September 16.

If you haven't yet, register your child/(ren) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QGJ59NF> for 2018–19.

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YRUU Advisor and COA Mentor Search

We are still looking for YRUU advisors and COA mentors for this coming year. For more information, email Catherine at dre@uucss.org.

Would You Like To Be Trained as an OWL Instructor?

If you would like to be trained as an OWL instructor for the next year, please email Catherine at dre@uucss.org to be added to the list of next training dates. The church will pay for your training.

Lunch and Learn: Religious Education Classes for Adults

This year we are offering classes in the theme of World Religions to match our children and youth's exploration of the same topic. We start in the fall with in-depth classes on three of the world's major religions and continue in January with a comparative religions approach. These classes will be in the Chapel and led by Catherine Boyle, DRE. Please bring a brown-bag lunch. For additional information or questions, email Catherine at dre@uucss.org

October: Buddhism

October 7: 12:00–2:00

October 21: 12:00–2:00

November: Hinduism

November 4: 12:00–2:00

November 18: 12:00–2:00

December: Islam

December 2: 12:00–2:00

December 16: 12:00–2:00

January: Comparative Religions

January 6: 12:00–2:00

January 20: 12:00–2:00

February: Comparative Religions Continues

February 3: 12:00–2:00

February 17: 12:00–2:00

March: Comparative Religions Continues

March 3: 12:00–2:00

March 17: 12:00–2:00

April: Comparative Religions Continues

April 14: 12:00–2:00

April 28: 12:00–2:00

Religious Education Mailing List

Are you in the "know" of the who, what, where, why and how of UUCSS RE? If not and you want to be, sign up to receive our weekly Newsletter. Email dre@uucss.org to be added.

CONNECT

Lay Ministry Program By Marcia Joiner, Lay Ministry Team Chair

Are you going through a major turning point in life? Our most profound joys and sorrows sometimes leave us feeling a little isolated. The Lay Ministry Team offers peer listening to help UUCSS members to know they are not alone in times of change.

The Lay Ministry Program at UUCSS offers person-to-person pastoral care to all adult members of the church community. Lay Ministers will listen to your fears and concerns. Members call on Lay Ministers when they are facing a wide range of difficult situations and transitions such as illness, divorce, caring for aging parents or troubled children, substance abuse, or the death of a loved one. All contacts and conversations are held in confidence by the Lay Ministry Team and the Interim Minister, unless someone is in imminent danger of harm.

Please note that lay pastoral care, in which members of the congregation support one another, is not the same as pastoral counseling, which is a specific skill offered by qualified professionals. Lay Ministers are not professional counselors, but rather a small group of members who have been trained by and work with the Minister to provide compassionate care.

To reach a Lay Minister, contact the **Rev. Lyn Cox** at RevLynCox@gmail.com or 240-847-4003. You may also email the Lay Ministry Team directly at layministers@uucss.org. We want to help, and sometimes just talking to someone can lighten the load.

HOMEcomings POTLUCK

Celebrate the new church year with new friends and old! Join us for the Homecoming Potluck to welcome each other back after a fruitful summer on September 9 from 12:00 to 1:00 in the Sanctuary Foyer. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848afac23a64-homecoming> for what dish you'll bring and to volunteer. (Please paste the url into your browser.) Don't forget to label your dish and include whether it is vegan, vegetarian, or gluten-free. Questions? Email **Catherine** at dre@uucss.org

ANNOUNCING COTTAGE MEETINGS

Dear UUCSS Members, Friends, and Staff,

One of the critical steps in the ministerial search process is gathering input from the congregation about who we are, what our future vision is for the church, and how our future minister can help us achieve that vision. One avenue for gathering this input is through facilitated cottage meetings held with small groups of members and friends of the congregation. The Search Committee will be conducting cottage meetings during September and October. **Childcare** is being offered on select dates with advanced registration. **ASL interpreters** will be arranged upon request.

Sign up directly at the following link:

Cottage Meeting Sign Ups: If there are glitches with this hyperlink, type the following into your browser:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dabaf2aaaf94-uucss/69884984>

Search committee members will also be available to register you during Coffee Hour on **September 9**.

We look forward to having these important conversations with you during the coming months!

UUCSS Settled Minister Search Committee—

Alice-Ann Beachy, Carol Hamilton, Janne Harrelson, Maggie Hayes, Carl Miller, Susannah Numa, and Colin Riggs

DREAMBUILDERS ALL-CHURCH MEETINGS

The DreamBuilders Committee will hold two informal meetings to update the congregation on its progress in implementing Phase 1 (necessary repairs to the Sanctuary), discuss ideas it is considering for Phase 2, and take questions and comments from the congregation. Come after the service, at noon, on either Sunday, September 16 (in the Sanctuary), or Sunday, September 30, to hear from the DreamBuilders and share your thoughts and questions with them.

30TH ANNIVERSARY AT CATOCTIN



Join us for our 30th anniversary UUCSS Catoctin Mountain Fall Retreat! From September 21–23, we will gather at Catoctin Mountain Park, in nearby Thurmont, Maryland, to make music, play games, prepare and share meals, hike, relax, and get to know each other better. If you are new to UUCSS, it's a great way to get to know many members of our community. Young and old, singles, couples, and families, come for the fun.

Camp Greentop, where we traditionally gather, is undergoing renovation, so we'll relax this year just down the road at Camp Round Meadow, less than a 90-minute drive from church. We'll sleep in heated dormitories that have attached bathrooms with hot showers (yay!).

CONNECT (continued)

Online registration has begun and will end Sunday, September 16. If you have questions, many church members can tell you about this fantastic weekend, or feel free to contact Catocin retreat coordinator **Nicole Levesque** at nlevesque@verizon.net or 240-687-3323.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group is an informal group that meets on the fourth Monday of each month. It was formed at UUCSS in 2000, but there is no long-term obligation, and all interested readers are welcome to attend. Please contact **Deborah Weiner** at dweiner04@gmail.com, or speak with other book group participants for additional information and directions. The group is meeting on September 22 to discuss *The Invisible Bridge*, by Julie Orringer.

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *American Pastoral*, for which Phillip Roth won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998. The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 23, at the home of **Jerry Herbers**, 1215 Highland Drive, Silver Spring 20910. 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!

Jazz@UUCSS

presents the **Irene Jalehti Trio** on Saturday, September 30, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the UUCSS Sanctuary. Italian-born, Baltimore-based Irene is a dynamic, soulful and passionate performer and composer. She will be joined by pianist **Joshua Espinosa** and trumpeter **Leo Maxey**. Suggested donation is \$10 (\$5 for students and seniors). Children 12 and under are free.

The InReach Evening Creative Aging Group is open to new participants. If you are in the second half of life (as defined by you), then this group may be for you as we explore questions of identity and purpose unique to this stage of life. We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Dolan Lounge. Contact **Kent McCullough** at 301-552-1427 or email at jumccullough@verizon.net.



Church Auction

Save the Date!

November 10, 2018, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

This Year's Theme: Hooray for Hollywood!



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](https://uucss.org/auction/donate/) 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

AUCTION (continued)

See last year's catalog for more ideas.

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

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

Childcare Is Available. Reserve Your Spot Today

Childcare is available. 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 Hooray for Hollywood Auction!

Theme-related clothing/costumes are encouraged, and are part of what makes this such a special event. Come as your favorite actor or movie character! 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 catalogue, please contact the Auction Committee at auction@uucss.org.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 8, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Blue Jean Saturday, with the focus on fixing the Fellowship House roof; taking out the large, dead ash tree; and putting finishing touches on the Sanctuary before the Water Communion service the next day.

SEPTEMBER 9, 12:00–1:00 p.m., Homecoming Potluck, Sanctuary Foyer.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1:00 p.m. Carolyn Morrissey, UUA transition coach, meets with the congregation to share information about the search process and respond to any questions.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2:00–4:00 p.m. Rise for Climate! Rally, Rockville Town Square, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Go to <https://patch.com/maryland/potomac/calendar/event/20180909/392833/rise-4-climate-montgomery-county> for more information.

SEPTEMBER 16, 12:00 noon, DreamBuilders session one, Sanctuary.

SEPTEMBER 20–NOVEMBER 8, 7:00–9:00 p.m. (Thursdays for 8 weeks), Compassion Cultivation Training, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling, Sterling, VA. Pre-registration is required; the fee is \$325. A generous donor has offered to sponsor scholarships for those interested but unable to afford the registration fee. More information is available at www.lauralbanks.com.

SEPTEMBER 21–23, Catoctin Mountain Fall Retreat, Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, MD.

SEPTEMBER 30, 12:00 noon, DreamBuilders session two, Sanctuary.

SEPTEMBER 30, 4:00–5:30 p.m. jazz@uucss presents the Irene Jالenti Trio.

OCTOBER 14, 1:00–5:00 p.m. All-church gathering with the Ministerial Search Committee to review the cottage meeting and survey data, and identify key themes and priorities.

NOVEMBER 10, 5:30–10:00 p.m. Save the date for the annual church auction.

CONNECT (continued)

APRIL 28 – MAY 5, 2019. Candidating Week – Final ministerial candidate preaches at the worship service on April 28, meets with congregants and staff throughout the week, and preaches again on May 5. Congregational meeting on May 5, vote on the motion to call the candidate. (Hold May 5-12 as back-up.)

SERVE

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

September's charity of the month is **Suited for Change**, a nonprofit organization that provides head-to-toe professional attire, mentoring, and job-readiness education to local women entering the job market or those recently employed. Please donate generously to Suited for Change at the service on September 16. Checks should be made out to UUCSS, with "Suited for Change" in the memo line.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Christa Maher is the Volunteer of the Month for September. Christa and her husband **Ryan Smith** first came to UUCSS in 2014, after searching for a faith community that would fit her need for structure and Ryan's need for openness. After the first service, their children asked when they could go back. Two weeks later, Christa and her family experienced their first Catoctin retreat. They found UUCSS more welcoming and engaging than other places they had been. Also, they found it a good community for their family, a place to support their children in the wider world beyond home and school.

Christa accepted the call to be Board Secretary in the summer of 2017. Given the tumultuous previous year, she felt that it was time to engage more fully, and she wanted to find a way to help the congregation stabilize. As Board Secretary, she takes minutes at every meeting, organizes the annual meeting and all other congregational meetings, and sends cards on behalf of the Board to congregants who are experiencing a difficult time. Christa feels that our congregation is made of people of many different interests, and if there is something that you want to do, there are likely others in the congregation who are working on it or would join you in making it happen. She believes that UUCSS needs everyone's energy.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Over the summer, we have taken care of many property Issues, such as updating electrification in the YRUU house, cleaning tile and carpeted floors in the Community Hall Building and the Sanctuary Building, tile repair in the Sanctuary Building, and painting in the Sanctuary Building.

We also welcomed our new Interim Minister, Rev. Lyn Cox. Another busy summer!!

Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator



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FIRST CLASS

Rev. Lyn Cox
Interim Minister
interimminister@uucss.org

Catherine Boyle
Religious Education Director
dre@uucss.org

Michael Holmes
Music Director
musicdirector@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