

January 2021

Uniter



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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WORSHIP SERVICES

**Music begins at 10:30 AM / Service at 11:00 AM
Zoom Coffee Hour at 12:00 PM**

How to Join Worship

- A. Join the Livestream by visiting the church's [YouTube](#) page
- B. Join the sign language interpretation on [Zoom](#)
- C. Attend virtual coffee hour on [Zoom](#)

Having trouble tuning in for worship?

Please email administrator@uucss.org
with your name and phone number to be connected with a volunteer who can help.

January 3: Beginning Anew, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Each New Year represents a new beginning, a new chance to align ourselves more closely with our sense of purpose and meaning. This week we will share in a ritual to help us dream together about what we hope for in the year to come.

January 10: After the Pandemic, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

As the number of people who have received one of the vaccinations grows, many are beginning to imagine life after the COVID-19 pandemic. Who and what will no longer be part of our lives? What will be possible in the "after" that wasn't possible in the "before?" Join us on Sunday as we imagine the near future, and how to help shape that future with our values.

January 17: MLK Legacy: Awakening the Dream, Paula Cole Jones

This Sunday we honor the legacy and heed the call of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., while continuing with January's worship theme of Imagination. Paula Cole Jones is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and an independent consultant specializing in multicultural competencies and institutional change. She co-facilitated the popular Jubilee training held here at UUCSS last November. Please join the Racial Justice Task Force and surprise musical guests for this powerful service!

January 24: Breaking Free, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Imagination is powerful in both positive and negative ways. This week we will explore ways to break free from the limits of how others imagine us.

January 31: Beyond Imagination, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

As we consider life after the pandemic, what direction do we imagine our shared ministry will take? Setting goals and priorities as a community is important, but just as important is our capacity for staying in touch with all that is emerging in, among, and all around us. This Sunday, we lean into the mystery, welcoming that which we can't control and which is beyond our imagination to lead us into a future of possibility.

INSPIRE

Minister's Column by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt



Happy 2021! It may not be easy to imagine how this new year will unfold, but it seems likely it will bring just as much transition as the last.

Our worship theme for January is “imagination.” It seems fitting that after such a difficult year we begin the new one imagining not only what we hope for the new year, but how we might align ourselves more closely with our sense of purpose. As you imagine the year ahead, where does your interest lie, where is the energy, what do you feel called to do? Are there things you can change or shift so that you can be more present in those areas of interest, energy, and calling? Would different priorities or boundaries help you make those shifts?

I’ve had several conversations that suggest many of you are feeling pandemic overwhelm, some caring for children or other family members for whom this period in all of our lives is especially hard. I want you to know that when I think about the purpose of this congregation, it’s not just about what we do together, but what is done inside each of us. Church is as much about our inner transformation as it is the ways we transform the world. But we have to make space so that transformative power has room to take hold and grow within us.

When I began this shared ministry I made the decision to throw myself into congregational life as fully as I could, and generally be present in lots of virtual spaces so that I could get to know as many of you as possible during this socially distant time. I’m so glad I began our shared ministry with that priority in place, and I treasure the relationships growing between us. It’s also true that the schedule I’ve maintained these last several months isn’t sustainable over the long term. And as conversations bubble up about mission, vision, and what the focus of our shared ministry will be after the pandemic, I know that these areas will need more of my focus and presence.

This seems like an auspicious time to let you all know about some shifts I’m making so that I can be more fully present to what is emerging in, with, and among this community and also be more present with my family. In concrete terms, I will not attend quite so many evening meetings, and I will need to reduce the one-on-one meetings I commit to during the week.

I hope all of you will likewise consider where in your lives you can make some shifts so that you have time and space not just for what needs to be done, but to care for yourselves. Mostly, I hope we all take the beginning of this new year as an opportunity to pace ourselves so that when we do emerge from this pandemic we are able to reintegrate as fully and joyfully and energetically as we can.

Message From Carl Miller, Board President



Since the holiday season is still fresh in our minds, I'm going to ask everyone: What's a present that you've gotten in the past that was especially meaningful?

I had to mentally sort through a lot of flashy presents that I got when I was young (15 mph remote control car, Nintendo, the "Armatron") and then I thought of a treasured one for myself. My late sister, Elizabeth, once gave me a small leather-bound journal. I still have it in my study in our house in Silver Spring. It's brown, with a leather strap to tie around itself, and the pages have a rough unrefined texture so that it looks a lot older than it is. It is the type of book that someone keeps with them on a desert island in the movies, when they're stranded, hungry, and hoping for rescue. When I open the journal, every page is blank, except for the first one, which has a small message that says "To Carl / Love Lizzie." (And I still haven't written anything in it. How could I add anything now? It's already perfect.)

So, that's the present I remember. And, speaking of giving...

It was so much fun to catch the end of the church auction in the evening on December 13th!! Thanks to everyone for their creative contributions, and especially to Linda Barrett, Emily Harris, and Emily Tien for organizing the event. UUCSS's energy is big enough for anything, including when it's reaching across virtual space to find us all.

The recent board meetings have included capital improvements, the annual budget drive, policy revisions, and continued case-by-case discussions about use of UUCSS church grounds. We're all holding tight under a pandemic that has not let up. Meanwhile, the year 2021, with all its blank pages, awaits.

I hope this message finds you well--or if not, please know our thoughts are with you and all the members and friends who are suffering from COVID-19.

Is there a present you've received that was particularly meaningful or sentimental? You're invited to share by commenting on the [#ShareWithUs](#) post found in the [UUCSS private Facebook group](#).

LEARN

Message From Marsha Thrall, Interim Director of Religious Education



We made it to 2021! As we enter this new year, it's exciting to think about all of the opportunities ahead of us. If all goes well, we may be able to start meeting in person in 2021. More opportunities to grow the budding Lifespan Religious Education program at UUCSS will present themselves, and despite the setbacks that 2020 brought our way, as a community we will continue to grow and thrive.

Though January is the month of "Imagination," Imagination has been the rule for the past twelve months at UUCSS, as we've grown and developed both virtual worship, and virtual Religious Education. And from these seeds of Imagination have grown sprouts of possibility that we can carry into 2021--allowing the congregation to grow, flourish, and live into the principles of our UU faith.

As we move through and work to survive this time of COVID, UU principle #2 has brought me comfort and direction. It compels us to seek "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." I've meditated on this principle a lot since March 2020, and a fruit of this meditation has been an idea for how we can serve our neighbors who may simply need a small bit of assistance during this time when many have become jobless and resource insecure. In November, with the help and encouragement of Rev. Kristin, we proposed to the UUCSS Board that Religious Education undertake the initiative of creating a "Little Free Pantry" that will be available for members of the wider Hillandale and Silver Spring communities to take needed items, or donate items that might help others. With the help of our 5th and 6th grade "Call to Justice" group, YRUU, the Property Committee, and other volunteers at UUCSS, we will build, stock, and promote the Little Free Pantry, launching the project by April 2021. Check out the Little Free Pantry website to see how similar projects are helping communities: <https://www.littlefreepantry.org>. Want to help with this project? Let me know at JDREUUCSS@gmail.com.

One of the beautiful things about being UU is that in our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," we are constantly using our collective imagination to evolve, grow, and move forward. Since June, the Racial Justice Task Force and 8th Principle Task Force have collaborated with Religious Education so we can assist in the discernment process for adopting the 8th Principle. And this work will continue into 2021, as Religious Education and the 8th Principle Task Force will partner to provide open platforms for exploring the 8th principle and what adopting the 8th principle means to the UUCSS community. The first opportunity for this exploration will happen on January 30 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm with a Town Hall style Talk Back session to discuss takeaways from our recent Jubilee event. If you'd like to join the conversation, please see the information below for Zoom link and password information.

Religious Education Activities--for Children and Adults

Youth Religious Education

At UUCSS, we offer religious education for all ages. If you are not yet registered, you can do so for the following ages on our website at <https://uucss.org/children/>

- Pre-School (Ages 2-5) Parents of Preschoolers (POP!)
- Kindergarten through 1st Grade - "Love Surrounds Us" from Tapestry of Faith
- Grades 2 through 4 - "Love Will Guide Us" from Tapestry of Faith
- Grades 5 through 6 (Middle School A) - "Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker" from Tapestry of Faith
- Grades 7 through 8 (Middle School B) - "Building Bridges: A World Religions Program" from Tapestry of Faith
- Grade 9 - Coming of Age (COA)
- Grades 10 through 12 - Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

RE Schedule – January 2021

January is a busy month in RE. We will be utilizing our third lesson from the King Institute as we learn how to build a global home of welcome, equity, and inclusion.

The schedule for January is as follows:

- January 3. Standard RE -- Lessons from the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum
- January 10. Standard RE -- Lessons from the King Institute at Stanford University curriculum
- January 17. Multigenerational Worship -- No RE
- January 24. Standard RE -- Lessons from the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum
- January 31. Art Assembly

For Zoom links and times for RE classes, please be on the lookout for your weekly parent email which provides all relevant information for each week's RE experience.

Anti-Racism Parent Group, Wednesdays, 7 - 8 pm.

The Anti-Racism Parent Group will resume Wednesday, Jan 13. The Zoom link and password will remain the same.

<https://zoom.us/j/97492561680?pwd=Tkp6S1RKY0VrS1BxdWp1d1FUelNidz09>

Meeting ID: 974 9256 1680

Passcode: 274662

Religious Education and 8PTF Talkback Town Hall Meeting--Jubilee, Jan 30, 1 - 2:30 pm

This town hall meeting, sponsored by Religious Education, and the 8th Principle Task Force at UUCSS, will provide members the opportunity to discuss and deconstruct issues from Jubilee events.

<https://zoom.us/j/98076398354?pwd=UXNud3U1ZGFFbEtPU3QxbDhybUtjdz09>

Meeting ID: 980 7639 8354

Passcode: 318021

CONNECT

EVENTS

Recurring and committee events can also be found on the Church Calendar at: <https://uucss.org/calendar/>

Jan. 4, 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Online Men's Group.

Jan. 6, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Religious Education Anti-Racism Parent Group. See "Learn" section above for zoom info.

Jan. 7, 7:30 pm. Masterworks of Music--Paul Simon: Graceland (also focuses on other artists' collaborations with African musicians in the 1980s).

https://zoom.us/j/96529557241?pwd=OXFFVVJSNzdzTFZBcGxqcUwrNGNodz09&fbclid=IwAR0JZrWkO2vhlbUfuuY7bGkQdl89EckGm4o1_nK_EOF0gnTEch4pUb40SAQ Meeting ID: 965 2955 7241 Passcode: 725889

Jan. 8 - Jan. 9. Annual Leadership Retreat (see details in Virtual Retreat article below).

Jan. 10. 7 pm. Men's Book Group--We are reading *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. We will meet on Zoom to discuss this book. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Richard Lorr (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book and the Zoom link, and come to the next meeting. (Our February selections are two plays by August Wilson, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Fences.")

Jan. 11, 7:30 - 10 pm. Online Men's Group.

Jan. 13, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Religious Education Anti-Racism Parent Group. See "Learn" section above for zoom info.

Jan. 14, 7:30 pm. Masterworks of Music-1/14--Protest Music: (Jazz, Folk, & Spiritual) in honor of MLK weekend.

https://zoom.us/j/96529557241?pwd=OXFFVVJSNzdzTFZBcGxqcUwrNGNodz09&fbclid=IwAR0JZrWkO2vhlbUfuuY7bGkQdl89EckGm4o1_nK_EOF0gnTEch4pUb40SAQ Meeting ID: 965 2955 7241 Passcode: 725889

Jan. 15, 7 - 8:30 pm. RJTF-sponsored book group discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*. Zoom link: <https://gwu-edu.zoom.us/j/98263230898>

Jan. 15-17. Jubilee 3 Anti-Racism Training: If you missed Jubilee in November, here's another opportunity. [More info and registration.](#)

Jan. 18, 7:30 - 10 pm. Online Men's Group.

Jan. 20, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Religious Education Anti-Racism Parent Group. See "Learn" section above for zoom info.

EVENTS CONTINUED...

Jan. 21, 7:30. Masterworks of Music--Benjamin Britten: Peter Grimes and War Requiem (Pacifism, protest, and focus on “outcast” music).

https://zoom.us/j/96529557241?pwd=OXFFVVJSNzdzTFZBcGxqcUwrNGNodz09&fbclid=IwAR0JZrWkO2vhlbUfuuy7bGkQdl89EckGm4o1_nK_EOF0gnTEch4pUb40SAQ Meeting ID: 965 2955 7241 Passcode: 725889

Jan. 25, 7:30 - 10 pm. Online Men’s Group.

Jan. 25, 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Women’s Book Group--The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. We meet via Zoom on the fourth Monday of the month. Interested readers are welcome to join without a long-term obligation. Please contact (dweiner04@gmail.com) for further details.

Jan. 27, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Religious Education Anti-Racism Parent Group. See “Learn” section above for zoom info.

Jan. 28, 7:30. Masterworks of Music--Women in Music, Part 2: 17th through 19th Centuries (Isabella Leonarda, Barbara Strozzi, Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann).

https://zoom.us/j/96529557241?pwd=OXFFVVJSNzdzTFZBcGxqcUwrNGNodz09&fbclid=IwAR0JZrWkO2vhlbUfuuy7bGkQdl89EckGm4o1_nK_EOF0gnTEch4pUb40SAQ Meeting ID: 965 2955 7241 Passcode: 725889

Jan. 30, 1 - 2:30 pm. Religious Education and the 8PTF will hold a Town Hall style Talk Back session to discuss takeaways from our recent Jubilee events. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98076398354?pwd=UXNud3U1ZGFFbEtPU3QxbDhybUtjdz09> Meeting ID: 980 7639 8354
Passcode: 318021

Committee Updates

8th Principle Learning & Growing

By Phyllis Ryder

The Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) has been preparing a slate of opportunities for us to explore the 8th Principle and consider what it might mean to affirm and promote:

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. (8thprincipleuu.org)

The more I learn about the 8th Principle, the more excited I am to build the Beloved Community that it envisions. Recently, I was on a joyful Zoom call with over 200 UUs, representing the over 30 8th Principle congregations so far. Four ministers shared with much affection and joy how their congregations have grown. Rev. T. J. FitzGerald said that First Unitarian Church of Honolulu is known in Hawaii as the “accountably dismantling racism church.” On a very practical level, he said that if churches want to attract members under age 40, they must adopt the 8th Principle. Rev. McKinley Sims from The UUC of the Restoration

(Philadelphia)—the first church to adopt the 8th Principle –pondered the deep work of naming the concrete manifestations of white supremacy culture and how that work is always accompanied by love. Rev. Dr. Robin **COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED...**

Tanner described how members of Beacon UUC (Summit, NJ) engaged the 8th Principle as they developed a beautiful new covenant. And Rev. John Crestwell declared with great conviction that the country is at a turning point, that the racism within America has been exposed, that people are coming together to do the work of real change, and that UUs have a clear path forward. I left the call excited to be part of this movement, joined with people so joyful in this work. (The video of this conversation will be made available soon. Stay tuned.)

At UUCSS over the past month the 8P Task Force/Racial Justice Task Force has:

- Studied the UUA report, [Widening the Circle of Concern](#), which is “an audit of the power structures, systemic racism and white supremacy culture within the Unitarian Universalist Association” (Intro). This report speaks to changes needed at the denominational level. We see it as a model for reflecting on systems at the congregational level.
- Begun speaking with leaders in other 8P congregations to understand how they have incorporated the Principle into their structures and cultures.
- Developed a plan (to be rolled out soon) for curating and sharing concrete actions that UUCSS members can take to support local antiracism organizations and pressure Maryland lawmakers to enact antiracist policies.
- Held a very successful Jubilee 3 Antiracism workshop in November, attended by 36 members and 6 Board Members. Bravo!

We have some events coming up, and we invite you to join us in a spirit of honest inquiry:

Book Group January 15 7-8:30 pm: Discussion of Isabel Wilkerson’s [Caste](#) (mentioned in Nov 22 Worship service as part of the 8th Principle Play). “The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.”

Jubilee 3 Jan 15-17: If you missed Jubilee Anti-Racism Training in November, here’s another opportunity. [More info and registration.](#)

Linguistic Pop-up sessions--dates TBD: Led by the amazing Miako Villanueva, this activity explores the 8P by sharing stories about what the terms mean to us.

Small group listening sessions--dates TBD: The 8PTF will host some small group sessions to introduce the 8P and listen to your responses.

Check-ins with UUCSS church leaders and committees: These will be just the beginnings of conversations for work that will continue.

Adult RE Workshop--dates TBD: Working with IDRE Marsha Thrall, we’ll offer a series of workshops based on some of the chapters in *Widening the Circle*.

Revolutionary Love Conference--April 15-18: We invite all to join this [online conference](#), which brings together faith leaders from many traditions, liberation activists, artists and educators. This is a community that practices profound love throughout the work of dismantling oppression. Mary Beth Lerner (bclarke10@comcast.net) is gathering names for a group rate, if you’re interested.

COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED...

Virtual Retreat for Current and Potential Leaders--January 8-9

During the Before Times, UUCSS held an in-person Annual Leadership Retreat to set priorities for the months and years ahead. The 2020-21 church year, of course, is like no other in our history. Besides “doing church” online due to the pandemic, we also have a new settled Minister, a new and more inclusive set of Bylaws, and the re-named Leadership Development Committee with a mission broader than just nominating people to run for leadership positions.

Besides the usual line-up of Minister, Board members, and committee chairs, this year we’re inviting any other members who would like to join us. You may have wondered what happens at these retreats, you may have thought about serving UUCSS in new ways, or you may never have imagined that you might play a leadership role within the church. We welcome you all!

The retreat will be shorter than usual, with the first session on Friday evening, January 8, from 7 to 9 pm, and the second on Saturday afternoon, January 9, from 1 to 3 pm. Rev. Kristin and Michael Holmes will lead the Friday session, “Imagining Together: Church After the Pandemic,” to envision the transition from virtual church to gathering in person. How will we stay connected with far-flung members and friends? What are our aspirations and priorities for this re-invention of “doing church?”

On Saturday afternoon, the Rev. Meg Foley (UUA Regional Lead) will be sharing her ideas on “how not to break your new minister with your enthusiasm and love!” Setting and respecting boundaries are essential to the success of Rev. Kristin’s ministry. Rev. Foley will also walk us through some complex developments--conducting virtual church during the coming months, and defining the role of the new Communications Administrator.

If you’re not already on the list of retreat attendees and you’d like to participate, please contact Maggie Hayes (hayesmf@gmail).

Note: This is not a precedent for the 2021-22 church year, when we expect to be able to hold the retreat in person.

COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED...

Green Notes: Resolve to Reduce, Reuse, Recharge and Recycle in 2021!

According to the EPA website, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25% (<https://blog.epa.gov>), generating an additional 1 million tons a week to our landfills. And those are pre-pandemic figures!

Take a moment before your next trash and recycling pick-up to consider what can be reused, donated, or perhaps recycled outside of your weekly pickup.

Below is a brief guide for what to do with hard(er) to recycle items. Call recycling centers to check for recent updates due to COVID changes in scheduling and processing before you head out to a drop off location.

Christmas trees can be left curbside for pick-up with your recycling on collection day in Montgomery County, where they will be composted or chipped for mulch. Consider recycling parts of your tree at home: Branches and needles can be placed under trees and shrubs as a temporary winter mulch, where they will also provide habitat for winter critters. They can also be chopped up and added to a home compost pile.

Holiday light strings: can be dropped off at MOM's (Moms Organic Market) until January 31. Year round, they can be mailed to Christmas Light Source Recycling Program, 4313 Elmwood Drive, Benbrook, TX, 76116. The proceeds from this recycling program are used to purchase books and educational toys that are donated to Toys for Tots. As you replace lights, consider buying new lights that are LEDs; Energy Star certified LED holiday lights are 75% more energy efficient than incandescents.

Packing Material: Participating locations of The UPS Store accept clean plastic foam peanuts, and sometimes bubble wrap and inflated air pillows to be reused. Call your location to check. Air pillows and bubble wrap that have been deflated can be recycled with plastics described below. Starch based packing peanuts cans be composted. Add them to your container pots to cut down on the weight of large containers and the amount of soil needed.

Batteries: Participating retailers accept cell phone and rechargeable batteries, but not single use alkaline batteries. To find a retailer near you, go to Call2Recycle.org. Many Ace Hardware stores and Home Depots are among participating retailers that accept cell phone and rechargeable batteries. Moms Organic Market (MOMs) collects many types of batteries for recycling including batteries with terminals. For a complete list see <https://momsorganicmarket.com/recycle-center/>.

NOTE: Batteries that cannot be recycled should not be disposed of in your household trash. Montgomery County accepts all types of batteries for disposal (not recycling) at the Household Hazardous Waste area of the Shady Grove Transfer Station.

Plastics: Plastic bags, film, and wrap can be dropped off for recycling at many grocery and retail stores, such as Safeway, Target, Harris Teeter, and Walmart. This includes plastic newspaper sleeves, drycleaning bags, bread bags, Ziploc-type food storage bags and most plastic wrapping like that covering rolls of paper towels or bottled water. Items must be clean and dry; remove or cut off paper labels. To find a location near you go to plasticfilmrecycling.org and enter your zipcode.



NOTE: #6 plastic (known as polystyrene or "styrofoam") cannot be recycled. These may be cups and trays, plastic utensils, or even clear or colored cups (classic red "party" cup).

Questions about other items? Visit Earth911.com to look up recycling locations for 350 different materials!

Volunteer of the Month

Jo Paoletti



Jo Paoletti learned the basics about the UU faith from an elementary school friend--UU's don't believe that Jesus is God and John was drunk when he wrote the Book of Revelations. She didn't revisit UUs again until 1982, when she was horrified at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres in Lebanon and wanted to be in a supportive religious space. UUCSS happened to be on one of her commutes and she decided to check us out. There were some immediate pluses, nursery care for her then five-month-old daughter Maria and being in tune with the words in our services. She had always had to mentally edit the Lutheran liturgy of her youth.

Jo has filled several significant roles with an unusual gap. She has been on the Board, taught literally every level of children and youth RE, and organized the Catocin Retreat multiple times. She and (the now Rev.) Carol Sissel played hooky from a women's retreat to watch the women's NCAA basketball final and dreamed up the UUCSS "tasteful semi-nude calendar" fundraiser. This is an example of what she refers to as "ad hockery," banding together over a good idea and pursuing it with enthusiasm. It also points to what Jo hasn't done, which is to serve on committees unless they are goal oriented and time bounded like Catocin.

When asked for some last words Jo said, "I spent years deciding what type of tattoo I would get when I turned 60. The symbol I chose says it all. No other group of people has made me what I am today."



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help in our RE classrooms, and with Art Assemblies. If you'd like to help, please contact Marsha Thrall at IDREUUCSS@gmail.com.

Community Partner of the Month

Young People for Progress

Young People for Progress (YPP) is a community organizing and social justice organization comprised of young people, aged under 35. It is based in Montgomery County and strives to create political power among youth and young adults to create a more just and equitable society.

After surveying local youth community members to discern the issues most impacting their lives, we decided to focus our work on policing. Our goal is to build power, especially among Black, Latinx, POC and working class youth and young adults in our county through organizing and winning tangible and systemic improvements. We especially aim to use the lived knowledge of those of us most directly impacted by this issue (policing) to inform every part of our organizing, as we know those of us closest to this issue often have the best understanding of its nuances and the best solutions.

Right now, working in coalition with over 25 other organizations, YPP is focusing on six demands of our local and state leaders to implement real and significant change to our current system of policing. You can learn more about these goals and our organization on our website (ypforprogress.org) or on Twitter [@ypforprogress](https://twitter.com/ypforprogress).

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Contacting Rev. Kristin

If you'd like to chat or have a pastoral visit, please go to www.calendly.com/rev-kristin-schmidt where you can schedule an appointment.

Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8am-2pm. Emails are checked.

Day off: Monday

Writing day: Wednesday

Contact number for phone and text: 202-780-7164

Email: minister@uucss.org

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Submissions are due by the 17th of the prior month.

Uniter's are published monthly September-June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

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 Google Doc (preferred), 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.

Co-editors are **Lynn Cave** and **Becca Stucky**.

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**.