

June 2022

Uniter



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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WORSHIP SERVICES

In-Person Worship Resumes!

COVID rates have subsided in our area, and we are excited to welcome the congregation back at 40% capacity in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings, having begun on Sunday, February 27! Worship will continue to be offered virtually as well, though the transition to live worship in the Sanctuary means services will again be streamed via Zoom rather than YouTube. Please see upcoming all-church emails for service links and more details.

Beginning on Sunday, March 6, Religious Education will resume in-person classes on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Children will begin 1st and 3rd Sundays in the Sanctuary for the first third of worship after which they will be sent to their classrooms. It will be so wonderful to be together in worship as a multigenerational community again!

While we will not be offering childcare until children under 5 can be vaccinated, families with young children are always welcome in the Sanctuary. We will be adding some rocking chairs and a small play area in the Sanctuary for grown-ups and young children who may need more freedom of movement. We have also recently installed a flatscreen TV in the Dolan Lounge (in the Administrative Building) where grown-ups with young children who wish to be on campus but in a space with fewer people can watch the service.

June 5: Appreciation Sunday, *Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt*

UUCSS exists because of the generosity, good humor, time, and talent of the people who call this congregation their own. So, this week we lift up in appreciation our RE teachers, Board, committees, councils, everyone who has helped us serve out our mission. The Annual Meeting will be held both in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom following the service

June 12: Flower Celebration Sunday, *Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt*

This week in worship we celebrate the challenge and blessing of being part of the bouquet of community with a beloved ceremony shared by UUs around the world. If you plan to attend the service in-person please bring a flower to add to the vase in the Sanctuary. If you will attend virtually or won't be able to make it to worship this Sunday please email a picture of yourself with a favorite flower to minister@uucss.org by the end of the day on Wednesday, June 8th. We will also commission and bless our new Board members this week. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for lunch and a party celebrating UUCSS's shared ministry!

June 19: Admiration, Blessings, Celebration! *Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon*

This week is Rev. Laura's final Sunday in worship. Join us for a sermon on the ABCs of a good goodbye, and to share in a ritual to close our time together with love and joy!

June 26: With All Thy Getting, Get Understanding, Pre-recorded 2016 GA sermon. *Rev. Nancy MacDonald Ladd*

While UUs from around the country join together at General Assembly, our annual conference in Portland, OR, we gather together for a service largely led by our own UUCSS Worship Associate and featuring the sermon from the 2016 General Assembly. Join us!

INSPIRE

Minister's Column by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt



I think most of us have at least one thing we wish we were better at than we are. For me, that thing is gardening. But hope springs eternal, so this year I went all out, assembled a new raised bed, used a grow light to nourish my seedlings before it was warm enough to plant them outside. A few weeks ago I finally planted them and covered the garden with netting to prevent the many bunnies in the neighborhood from eating my baby plants.

So when I recently went to see how they were doing, I found that some plants were doing well while others had withered away completely. Despite having preached many a sermon about the importance of gratitude practice, it was hard to focus on the plants

that had fared well instead of the ones that hadn't. According to a 2008 study this is a common struggle, but there's a simple tweak that can help us shift our thinking. What the study found was that imagining the absence of the good things in their lives is more likely to produce gratitude in most people rather than merely counting their blessings.

Since our theme for June is "cultivating blessings" this seemed like a good thought experiment, both for individuals and for us as a congregation this month. It's something to imagine how I'd have felt if the plants growing merrily in my garden hadn't fared well. As another school, work, and volunteering year wind down, rather than count your blessings, I invite you to imagine what it would have been like if they hadn't happened at all. And just think if all of the things we've done together at UUCSS hadn't happened.

The transition through the pandemic's various stages has been tough for a lot of us, and for a lot of organizations. Houses of worship of all faiths and in all regions are finding that ministry is different than in the "before times." The UUA Transitions Office recently shared that 20 of the 52 congregations in search for a new minister this year did not make a match. Many congregations have had to lay off long-term staff in order to balance their budgets while others have open staff positions for which they can find no qualified candidates. Scores of ministers are retiring, religious professionals are moving on after experiencing burnout, while others who might have chosen church work are instead choosing other work instead. Almost every colleague I know across denominations reports difficulty in balancing budgets and recruiting volunteers.

UUCSS has its challenges, but in this broader context I continue to be inspired by the spirit, commitment, and engagement here. So much so that it's hard for me to imagine the absence of our community's many blessings. We've certainly got room for improvement, but I'm so proud that we've been here this year to care for the sick, injured, and mourning, to welcome newcomers hungry for liberal faith, to organize efforts to advocate for our values in the world, to offer inspirational worship and music, and to provide much-needed support to the Thina family as they settle into their new lives

in the US. And on top of it all we've got a whole committee of people carefully planning the second phase of our capital improvement projects!

We will be celebrating our blessings as a community this month in worship, with Appreciation Sunday, Flower Celebration, and Rev. Dr. Laura's final service among us. Several services this summer will feature UUCSS members sharing the music that has shaped their sense of ethics and spirituality. And in the Fall we'll cultivate our blessings with an exciting change to the Sunday morning RE schedule that we hope will make both participating in and volunteering for RE for all ages more accessible to everyone. Everyone should have received an all-church email with details about RE for children, youth, and adults next year.

This has been a hard year in many ways and I am very ready for some time to rest and play. It's also as true as ever that I am proud to be your minister! I will be away from June 15-July 17 for some much-needed vacation so that I can return energized and ready to prepare for a year focused on reengaging with our shared mission, vision, and covenant. I will return to the pulpit on Sunday, July 24 and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Water Ceremony during Homecoming Sunday on August 28. In the meantime, I wish you all as much rest, renewal, and joy as you can get this summer.

Message From Maggie Hayes, Board President



Right now, I'm reading a new novel (memoir?) about a UU ministerial search committee. In Search, Michelle Huneven gives a fairly accurate account of the process, but the confrontational dynamics of the committee are the polar opposite of the 2019-20 committee on which I served, and I'm guessing of the 2020-21 committee as well. Kudos to the other 13 searchers whose efforts led to our calling Rev. Kristin.

In the book, the outgoing minister asks the narrator, "Did you know that half of all church presidents leave the church after their terms are up?" He said they become disillusioned: "Not everyone survives long exposure to all the behind-the-scenes and inter-workings of an institution." I've not been able to verify the percentage he claims, but

UUCSS has indeed experienced such departures. Anecdotally, so have many other UU churches (and probably other denominations as well.)

The fact that I'm not leaving after my term, now up, says less about me than about the current culture of UUCSS. We are past the time of factions quarreling over the future of the church. Yes, disagreements arise, occasionally to the level of conflict, but we are becoming a bit more adept in handling them. Priorities for the next church year include revising the Board policy on managing conflict and revisiting our mission, vision, and congregational covenant. The inter-workings of our institution strike me as pretty healthy.

Another reason I want to continue serving UUCSS is the support I've received these past three years from the ministers and their staffs, and from our councils, committees, task forces, and other groups of volunteers. I greatly appreciate all the contributions so many of you make to the welfare of UUCSS. Heartfelt thanks to some of the groups with whom I've had the most frequent interactions since July of 2019:

- Rev. Lyn Cox, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, and their excellent staff members. Their vision during the pandemic for online worship, followed by two-platform services, kept us bound together as a community. Our music director found innovative ways to keep the music alive, while our minister for spiritual growth was creative in meeting the congregation's needs for religious education.
- The Worship Committee, tech team, and other volunteers who made this vision a reality.
- The two Board presidents before me, along with the VPs for personnel and finance and other Board members who worked so hard to keep us heading in the right direction.
- Annual Budget Drive teams and stewards, whose dedicated work are keeping us financially afloat.
- The "RevCon" committee with whom I worked to replace our elderly constitution with up-to-date bylaws, approved by the congregation two years ago.
- The Capital Improvements Committee, whose diligent efforts resulted in sanctuary building renovations completed a year ago, with the expectation that the community building will be rehabilitated before the end of this coming church year.
- Our Program and Operations Councils and their many committees that kept our physical plant functioning, spearheaded the campaign to adopt the 8th Principle a year ago, welcomed visitors, continued publishing the *Uniter*, and so much more.

It has been a great honor to serve as your Board president this year; thank you for your trust and support. This summer I'll be joining the increasing number of my UUCSS friends living at Riderwood. Once I'm settled, I expect to keep on working with many of you in serving our Beloved Community, and to continue enjoying your fellowship and friendship.

LEARN

Message From Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon, Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth



Dear UUCSS,

My goodness, what a year it has been! It has been an honor to serve as your Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth and to be with you through the twists and turns of this year.

While I am sad to be leaving UUCSS, I am also looking forward to my next adventure as the contract minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, MA. Most importantly, I am so excited about the plans in place for UUCSS next year. Rev. Kristin, Michael, and I, in collaboration with the RE Committee, the Board, the Worship Committee, and the Music Committee have been in conversation about the plan for next year for several months now. I am particularly excited about the way this plan responds to several of the wants and needs we have heard from you around adult religious education, children and youth religious education, volunteer needs and capacity, and more.

This plan represents an important shift in faith formation at UUCSS. Even before the pandemic, there was a need for change in religious education across faith communities. The pandemic has surely hastened that need and has also presented an opportunity to re-imagine faith formation. This community has specifically expressed a desire for more adult religious education opportunities, more multigenerational community, and more global religions focus in religious education for people of all ages.

Additionally, this plan will change the number of volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and free up volunteers to both spend time in faith formation *and* worship! Of course, this plan only works if we have volunteers like you, so please **don't forget to volunteer!** My goal is to have 75% of our volunteer needs met by the time I leave UUCSS in mid-June. Volunteer commitments range from one-time commitments to once-a-month commitments. Thinking about volunteering? **Sign up now to be entered into a raffle to win a gift card for Zinnia!** ([Home | Zinnia \(eatzinnia.com\)](https://eatzinnia.com))

I am hopeful that this plan will start to address all of these elements, and that this next year, you and your new faith formation staff member will be able to create programming that is fun, soul-expanding, and meaningful for people of all ages.

Check out a snapshot of the plan below!

Volunteer registration: <https://forms.gle/ADACxreLfRMAAvjm6>

Please register your children for RE here: <https://forms.gle/pPdrnSkzFo3hMYCFA>

RE will start September 11, 2022.

First Sundays:

On the first Sunday of the month, the multigenerational choir will meet from 9:30-10:15 am to rehearse music that will be performed at the 10:30 am Multigenerational Worship Service. Singers of all ages and abilities are welcome!

Elementary School: Multigenerational Choir

Middle School: Multigenerational Choir

High School: Multigenerational Choir

Adults: Multigenerational Choir

Second Sundays:

On the second Sunday of the month, classes for elementary, middle, high school and adults will meet from 9:30-10:15 am. The worship service will begin at 10:30 am. Children are invited to stay in worship as long as they would like; however, adult supervision will be provided for free play activities following Joys and Sorrows.

Elementary School: Summer Magic curriculum

Middle School: Building Bridges curriculum

High School: Holy Fellowship

Adults: Small group ministry based on Soul Matters theme

Third Sundays:

On the third Sunday of the month, elementary and middle school students are invited to join the Children's Choir from 9:30-10:15 am. Programming will be available for high school students, as well as a parenting support group and a group discussing aging.

Elementary School: Children's Choir

Middle School: Children's Choir

High School: Deep Questions

Adults: Parenting Support Group; Hindsight, Humor, and Hope: Who Me, An Elder?

Fourth Sundays:

On the fourth Sunday of the month, elementary, middle, and high school students will meet from 9:30-10:15 am. An adult religious education class on Unitarian Universalist history will be offered during that time. Worship begins at 10:30 am.

Elementary School: Celebrations!

Middle School: Building Bridges curriculum

High School: Holy Fellowship

Adults: UU History class

Fifth Sundays:

On the rare occasion that there is a fifth Sunday (3 over the course of the year), an all-ages global faiths class will be offered. Appropriate for learners of all ages, all are welcome to come learn and explore in this intergenerational learning opportunity!

Elementary School: Multigenerational global faiths class

Middle School: Multigenerational global faiths class

High School: Multigenerational global faiths class

Adults: Multigenerational global faiths class

Coming of Age: Coming of Age will be offered for 9th and 10th grade students. This class will meet outside of Sunday mornings at a time yet to be determined. We are so glad to be able to offer this beloved tradition! This year, the curriculum used will be the UUA's Coming of Age Handbook, and we have a stellar team of volunteers ready for this undertaking!

With love and appreciation,

Rev. Laura

MAY AND JUNE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29	June
In-person Children's chapel Middle school YRUU	Virtual grade-based programs	In-person Art Assembly Middle school YRUU	Virtual grade-based programs	Memorial day weekend: no religious education	June 5th: In-person RE (Last day of RE!) June 12th: Multigenerational Worship - Flower Communion

Don't forget! Join us on May 7th at Wheaton Regional Park, and May 15th at UUCSS for a fun fairy house making event!

UUCSS History: The Road to Welcoming

In observance of the 70th anniversary of the founding of UUCSS, Jo Paoletti is updating the history series originally published in the Uniter in 2017 and 2018.

We are a Welcoming Congregation. That's an official designation, not my opinion. You can see the certificate we received from the Unitarian Universalist Association. 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 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 two-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 (WC) 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 WC committee member Sandra Dwigins.)
- 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.
- 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% 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>

CONNECT

Events

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

Interested in the UUCSS Catoctin Mountain Retreat This Fall? Let Us Know By June 19

We are excited to announce details about our annual Catoctin Weekend, which this year will be the weekend of September 23-25. For those of you not in the know, our annual church retreat in the Catoctin Mountains, about an hour drive from Silver Spring, is a 50-year UUCSS tradition and is a great event for the entire family. See below for much more information.

This year, we are doing things a bit differently. We are collecting commitments to attend Catoctin to make sure enough people are interested before asking you to register, and we need your help. At this time, we are asking for you to let us know if you are 90% sure that you will attend the full weekend, beginning Friday evening, 9/23, or any time Saturday, and staying through Sunday cleanup, which finishes at 2 pm on Sunday 9/25. (You may come up as a "Daytripper" for Saturday only, but you don't need to let us know that at this time). **We need to have commitments from at least 60 people and for five more lead volunteer jobs – we have the three event leaders -- by Sunday, June 19. Please [sign up here](#).**

If we don't get that level of interest, we will cancel. We are doing this to make things easier for our volunteers and leaders.

More on Catoctin

Catoctin has something for everyone, as we typically spend a lot of time together cooking, going on hikes, playing sports and board games, doing "improv theatre," making music, having an informal church service on Sunday morning and cleaning together before leaving the site at 2 pm on Sunday. Catoctin is also a "joyful work" weekend where everyone over age 5 helps for a few hours, including being a part of camp cleanup on Sunday. It also offers plenty of opportunities for quiet time, and to make new friends.

We are staying in a different site this year in which we will sleep in heated dormitories and not in unheated cabins. The event is fully accessible; let us know if you need an interpreter. Bring your walking shoes, musical instruments, board games to share or teach, art supplies, cooking utensils, knowledge, willingness to learn, and family members.

Thanks in advance for committing to attend by June 19. If you have questions, please contact Chris Lindsley at clindsley@starpower.net or c. 443-610-1956.

June 12, Noon-1:30 pm. End-of-Church-year Celebration to Welcome Reverend Kristin. UUCSS Campus. Everyone is invited to bring a dessert/cookie tray to share (finger food only, please). Sign-up to help set up, clean up or serve will be coming soon.

June 12. No Men's Book Club. Book for **July 10** is Manhattan Beach, a novel by the Pulitzer Prize winning author Jennifer Egan. If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Richard Lorr know (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and join us on Zoom with the link or come to an in person meeting at Sean Douglas's home, depending on your preference.

June 25, 9 am–Noon. Church Campus Workday. An outside, socially-distanced lunch will be served. Please bring a side dish to share!

June 27, 7:30 pm. Women's Book Group. We are meeting in hybrid format, both in person and Zoom. One can find us in the subgroups of Groups.io. Interested readers are welcome to join without a long-term commitment. This month's book: Becoming by Michelle Obama. Please contact Deb Weiner at dweiner04@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

Committee Updates

Defending Democracy Opportunities to Increase Voter Turnout

UUtheVote has partnered with Reclaim Our Vote/Center for Common Ground to increase turnout among underrepresented groups in upcoming primaries. Analysis shows that voters who don't normally vote but turn-out for primaries are 85% to 90% more likely to vote in the general election. The next postcard campaign is for Florida and will run until August. You can go to www.centerforcommonground.org to watch a video of what is required. We will provide postcards, script, pre-printed labels to be attached to postcards and instructions for getting names and addresses. If you are interested in participating, please contact Florence Fultz at vogelsang5@rcn.com or Mary Beth Lerner at bclarke10@comcast.net.

Center for Common Ground also has ongoing phone banking opportunities. More info is available at the above link.

Vote Forward has ongoing letter-writing campaigns to underrepresented groups in targeted states for the general election. More information is available at vote fwd.org

UUtheVote has targeted PA, GA, FL, WI, AZ, and NH for getting out the vote.

Open Hearts and Helping Hands: Update from the Resettlement Task Force

A young soldier, his wife and three children under five years old traveled from Kabul to a military base in New Jersey, with stop-overs in Dubai and Italy. They were among the 76,000 evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021 when the Taliban once again took over the country, and the U.S. military ended over 20 years of security operations post 9/11. Eventually, they found themselves in a residential hotel in Silver Spring, MD, and connected to UUCSS through a Good Neighbors Partner program with the resettlement agency, Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Their names are Sharif and Jamila Thina (parents), Zameer (5-yr old boy), Sanea (4-yr old girl) and Hawa (under 2). Sharif and Jamila are also expecting another child in June.

Members of the Resettlement Task Force first met the Thina family (pronounced Tah-NIE) in late January. Volunteers on the task force had completed orientation and background checks required by LSS in December, and were already busy fundraising and collecting donations from UUCSS for the family's future home. We entered this relationship knowing that there was a lot that we did not know—about Afghan culture, about the family's experiences and particular needs, about the whole refugee resettlement process in the US. Our UUCSS volunteers have put in countless hours—collecting and organizing donations, recruiting volunteers and

scheduling transportation, accompanying the family for health appointments, enrolling Sharif in English as a second language classes and helping him navigate Zoom, assisting Sharif with his job search, providing rides and helping Sharif learn to use public transport, supporting Jamila with online birth education classes, and importantly spending time with the family—getting to know them and offering emotional support. All of this culminated the weekend of May 14-15 with moving the family into their new home in White Oak, not far from UUCSS.

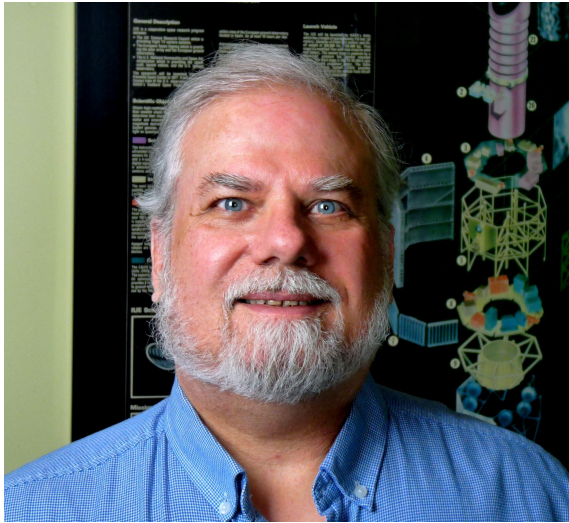
This all sounds like an unlikely journey, right? In some respects, we're only getting started, while also recognizing that this work is really, really difficult and sometimes the right path is not always clear. Now that the Thina family has moved into their new home, the Task Force plans to continue our support during the summer months. Some of our priorities include: supporting Jamila and the family as they welcome their new baby into the world; helping the family learn about and navigate the healthcare system and other community resources; helping to enroll Zameer and Sanea in Head Start; offering friendship, support and opportunities for building conversational English-language skills.

Thanks again to all UUCSS members and friends who have donated time, talent and loving support and concern. Your notes and words of encouragement to the Task Force members have also been deeply appreciated and fueled our work!

There will be more opportunities for volunteers during the summer and more updates about the family. If you would like to get involved, here's how:

- Sign up for the Lotsa Helping Hands group to provide rides, childcare, and other support. Contact Jane Larrick (jane_larrick@hotmail.com) or Stephanie McConachie (smccona@gmail.com)
- Join one of our small groups to provide family support: Send an email to resettlement@uucss.org
- You can also watch the UUCSS groups.io for announcements and updates.
- Too busy this summer? Watch for updates and new opportunities to participate in the fall!

Member Spotlight: Ron Turner



The first thing you notice about Ron Turner is his quick smile and an even quicker laugh. He collects good wine to share with friends and at church auction dinners that he and his wife Tamara Bowman host. He can get really excited about the plot of a Dresden Files novel and thinks that maybe you'd like it, too. He beamed proudly as his daughter Alexis went off for a Rainbow Alliance worship service planning session, meeting up with her sister Elise. There's that same smile with his two not-quite-running MGB's sitting in the garage, because maybe someday he'll be out on the open road again reliving fond memories of his first car. It soon becomes obvious that Ron has mastered finding delight in every corner of his life.

Ron has been a longstanding member of the choir, the music committee, and he is often the person behind the drinks table at our Church events. The host with the most, Ron planned our Capital Campaign celebration in 2016 held at River Road. In all these things, he helps us build space for our own delight to grow, especially by participating in the choir. In his own words, "We feel that the choir is our gift to the congregation. It comes from deep inside. I live to hear those spiritual songs and enjoy the rhythms. We feel it. We're there in it. It's a spiritual community. Our feeling is that we are offering ourselves as a present. We hope the congregation feels what we are feeling." Ron, the choir, and the music committee (who could use a few more members) are gifts to our community and to our greater delight.

Staff Hours and Contact Information

Jeannette Jackson, Administrator

administrator@uucss.org

Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon, Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth

Laura is available by appointment Tuesday through Friday at amsgr@uucss.org and (443) 671-2845. Monday is her day off. If something urgent comes up outside normal office hours or over the weekend please text or call her. You can schedule an appointment with Laura at www.calendly.com/uucssdsg

Michael Holmes, Music Director

Michael works Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings, and is available at other times by appointment. Michael can be reached at musicdirector@uucss.org.

Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Minister

Rev. Kristin works Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Mondays is her writing days and Friday is her day off. She is available at minister@uucss.org and 202-780-7164. If you experience a pastoral care emergency outside normal office hours or over the weekend please text or call her. You can schedule an appointment with Rev. Kristin at www.calendly.com/rev-kristin-schmidt

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

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FIRST CLASS

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

Uniters 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 **Caroline Stauss**.

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**.