

October 2022

# Uniter



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING  
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903  
301-273-9745 · Fax 301-434-4051

[www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)

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## WORSHIP SERVICES



*All Sunday services are offered in-person in our Sanctuary and broadcast live on Zoom. Please see the all-church email for the Zoom link. Masks are still required inside all buildings at UUCSS.*

**Oct. 2:** The Courage to Forgive, Co-Led by Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg and Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

"Courage" is our worship theme for the month of October, and this week we focus on the courage it takes to forgive. This is an interactive service for all ages and children will be in the Sanctuary for the whole hour. Nursery care is available for children 6+ months to 5 years.

**Oct. 9:** The Courage to be Vulnerable, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Sharon Saltzburg says "vulnerability in the face of constant change is what we share, whatever our present condition." This Indigenous People's Day weekend, we consider how the dominant culture's avoidance of vulnerability harms this country, and how the courage to be vulnerable can help us all get more free.

**Oct. 16:** The Courage to Hope, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

In a time when so many hard things keep happening, it's essential to stay connected with the people, places, and shared efforts that bring us hope. This week in worship we will learn about the work of UUs for Social Justice, the only organization that focuses on advancing UU values at the federal level.

**Oct. 23:** The Courage to Love, Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg

This LGBTQ History Month, join Rev. Caitlin for a service exploring the courage to love as we talk about the courage to love ourselves and each other in the fullness of our being.

**Oct. 30:** The Courage to Remember, Co-Led by Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg and Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

As people all over the world prepare to honor the dead in different ways, we will remember our ancestors and those in our families and communities who have died. Everyone is welcome to bring a picture or two of a friend or loved one you wish to honor during this service. This is a service for all ages - children will stay for the full hour, though Nursery care is available for children 6+ months to 5 years. If you plan to join us on Zoom, please send your picture to [minister@uucss.org](mailto:minister@uucss.org) by Wednesday, October 26.

# INSPIRE

## Minister's Column by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt



This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this church. This is also a pivotal time for our congregation. Though the virus seems here to stay, this community has emerged from the isolation and limitations of the pandemic and into a time of reconnecting and reimagining how we are being called to serve the world into the future. I'm settling into my third year as your minister even more committed to our shared ministry and the shape our next chapter might take. I'm thrilled that the Board has approved a feasibility study to build on a capital campaign, a crucial step in our work to build a strong foundation for our congregation to build on over the next 70 years.

After considering deeply the state of our current facilities and finances and reflecting on broadly-held aspirations voiced by the congregation over many years, a list of possible projects has emerged. These projects include long-planned building improvements on our Community Building as well as other projects to bring the accessibility and functionality of our campus into closer alignment with our values.

To move forward, what we need most is your input! The Board's goal is for every member and friend of the congregation to attend one of the many informational gatherings we will offer over a three week span. This will give everyone an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, share insights, and offer guidance.

Beginning on Sunday, September 25 we will be offering several Focus Group sessions. Because we want to hear from everyone, we are trying to make it easy to attend by scheduling these gatherings on various days and times. Some are in-person while others are being offered via Zoom. After a 20-minute presentation everyone will have the chance to ask questions and then share your thoughts and feedback. Please take a look at the following Focus Groups and mark your calendar for the one that works best for you. Childcare in the Nursery will be available for the focus groups in bold. We plan to provide a light snack to hold you over for the after-church sessions on the two Sundays (Oct 2 and Oct 9). Zoom links will be sent out through an all-church email.

Date	Time	Place
<b>Sunday, October 2</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Community Hall</b>
<b>Sunday, October 2</b>	<b>~11:45 am</b>	<b>Community Hall</b>
Tuesday, October 4	8 pm	ZOOM
Thursday, October 6	8 pm	ZOOM
<b>Sunday, October 9</b>	<b>~11:45 am</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>

So, happy 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary everyone! I hope you'll give this community the gift of your involvement and input in this process to help determine how we move forward. What a joy it is to be in community with you.

### Message From Doneby Smith, Board President



We are off to a great start this church year. We launched our new Sunday morning RE schedule, welcomed Rev Caitlin, honored Phyllis Stanley, our pianist, for her 30 years of beautiful music, got rid of piles of ivy on clean-up days under the leadership of Linda Barrett and Brian Beard, and so much more. It is so good to see the Sanctuary full again and see that all of us have legs, after months and months of talking heads in Zoom meetings. We are coming out of our pandemic cocoons, ready to move ahead.

After recognizing the need to reclaim our Community Building and to address some safety and accessibility issues to better align with our values of care and openness, the Board has approved a feasibility study for a capital campaign. It's time to come out of our holding pattern to assure that our buildings and grounds serve our needs, so that we can have a beautiful and well-functioning home base for our work in caring for each other and for our larger community.

With input from the Property Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee, the Board has drafted a list of projects, starting with renovation of the Community Building, but continuing on to look at other needs and opportunities. Now we need input from YOU: every member and every friend of the congregation. Between Sept. 25 and Oct. 9, the Board is sponsoring 8 gatherings to share information and to hear what is important to you. (By the time this Uniter edition comes out, 3 sessions will already be completed.) Each session is a 20-minute presentation followed by time for comments and questions. To make it easy for everyone to attend, sessions are scheduled for various days and times and formats: Sundays, weekdays, daytime, evening, in-person and by Zoom.

Look at the schedule earlier in the newsletter, pick a date you can come, and put it on your calendar today.

# LEARN

## UUCSS History: Catoctin Memories by Jo Paoletti

After many in the congregation just spent a weekend in Catoctin, the Uniter wants to bring you the following column.



“Catoctin” has been a magic word in the Paoletti household for nearly 40 years. It’s UUCSS shorthand for our fall retreat in Catoctin Mountain National Park near Thurmont, Maryland. My first experience with Catoctin consisted of showing up for church for my second visit in October 1982, only to find a lay-led service and a handful of worshippers, because that was the weekend

of the “all-church retreat.” In those days, everyone who wanted to attend could be accommodated at Camp Greentop (capacity 140).

By 1982, Catoctin was just five years old, but already a beloved church tradition. The first retreat had been scheduled for October 14-16, 1977, under the leadership of Janet and John Coffin, but had to be canceled due to a water shortage and dry conditions in the forest. Undaunted, the Coffins announced “Catoctin Lives!” in 1978. This first retreat took place at the smallest campsite in the park, Misty Mount, the last weekend in October (brrrrr!). By the time Jim, Maria and I attended our first Catoctin in 1984, we filled Camp Greentop. (This was Jim’s first real experience with the church; ask him how it went.)



We nearly had to cancel in 2001, when the security perimeter around nearby Camp David was expanded and journalists were housed at Camp Greentop. I was the co-ordinator that year, and wasn’t notified of the change until about ten days before our retreat. Fortunately, we were able to arrange to be relocated to Camp Round Meadow. It is smaller than Greentop, but we could accommodate everyone by identifying Friday- and Saturday-only attendees.

Since then, the retreat has been canceled more than once. The first time was during the government shutdown in 2013; Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay hosted an all-day picnic at her house instead. Then, in 2020 and 2021, COVID was the culprit. As I write this, Jim and I are looking forward to the late September revival of this unique community event. Shared meals, leisurely conversations, long walks in crisp weather, cards or board games, and falling asleep to the sounds of the forest. Rain or shine, hot, or cold, it’s a great experience!





# CONNECT



## Events

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

### Join us for Monthly Church Workdays

It's time to beautify our church building and grounds. We need your help with:

- clearing vines & weeds to create a pollinator garden
- kitchen cleaning

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

join us on Saturdays from 8-11 am

- October 22
- November 19

An outside, socially-distanced lunch will be served. Please bring a side dish to share!

*Hope to see you there!!!*

Brian Beard and Linda Barrett (UUCSS Garden Group)

Questions? Please email [brianbeard@hotmail.com](mailto:brianbeard@hotmail.com) and [limabean290@gmail.com](mailto:limabean290@gmail.com).

## Book Club Events

**Oct. 23**, 7 pm. Men's Book Club. We will be discussing Ready Player One, a science fiction novel by Ernest Cline. If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Richard Lorr know ([rlorr4@gmail.com](mailto:rlorr4@gmail.com)), get the book, and join us on Zoom with the link or come to an in-person meeting at Sean Randol's home, depending on your preference.

**Oct. 24**, 7:30 pm. Women's Book Group. We meet in person on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. All interested readers are welcome; please see our description in the subgroups at [groups.io.uucss.org](https://groups.io/uucss.org). Contact is Deborah Weiner, [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com)

## Committee Updates

### Info on Mid-term Elections from the Defending Democracy Committee

The midterms are less than 65 days away. Not far off, but still plenty of time to help get out the vote. Critical for democracy, but also for all the issues we care about – climate protection, racial justice, reproductive freedom and LGBTQ equality. UU The Vote, in partnership with numerous other organizations dedicated to



voting rights, has identified areas where voting is traditionally low among marginalized voters and suggests the following activities before October 29.

### Postcards

Center for Common Ground/Reclaim Our Vote has names and addresses of voters, script and postcards we can use. Please contact Mary Beth Lerner at [bclarke10@comcast.net](mailto:bclarke10@comcast.net) to request kits, with an estimate of how many postcards you want. You will only need to provide stamps.

### Letters

Vote Forward, another non-partisan partner, provides names and addresses of potential voters in eight states, along with language for letters. You can request via [votefwd.org](http://votefwd.org) or [mobilize.us/votefwd/event/497480](http://mobilize.us/votefwd/event/497480).

### Phonebanking

The non-partisan Environmental Voter Project will be calling voters in several key states. Contact <https://www.environmentalvoter.org/get-involved> for more info.

### Work the Polls

Montgomery County is accepting applications to work at the polls until October 18. More info at [www.777.vote.org](http://www.777.vote.org). There is one on-line training and one in-person required. No technical skills are required and there is plenty of support at the polls for new workers.

## Member Spotlight: Lynn Cave



Like so many members, Lynn Cave found UUCSS through another member, Alexa Fraser. Alexa invited Lynn and family to UUMAC, a summer Unitarian Universalist retreat. Lynn had been attending the Washington Ethical Society but decided on UUism after UUMAC. This summer UU program was a breath of fresh air for a single mom to have adulting time while Johnn and Melyssa were off on children's programs. Connections she made there grew as the family began attending UUCSS in 2001.

Those connections with other parents and relationships with the congregation's children have been deeply rewarding. She has mentored three 9<sup>th</sup> graders through their Coming of Age preparation. She has also been our Uniter editor for the past three years, even as she deals with an eye cancer diagnosis. Lynn feels that her friends and the Church community, as a whole, has been an ever-present support

for her.

Lynn moved to the Riderwood retirement community about a year ago as have so many current UUCSS members. She likes the view from her apartment and enjoys pickleball and playing cards and looks forward to making new friends just as she has at UUCSS. The key to making connections is a positive attitude and as Lynn said, "to be willing to be welcomed." She did not find fellowship in her religion of origin (Catholicism) and her UUCSS experience helped her to "be ready to be welcomed" into community.

## Staff Hours and Contact Information

### **Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg, Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth**

[amsg@uucss.org](mailto:amsg@uucss.org)

### **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](mailto:musicdirector@uucss.org).

### **Jeannette Jackson, Administrator**

[administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@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](mailto: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](https://www.calendly.com/rev-kristin-schmidt)



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring**

10309 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

**Staff and Board President**

**Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt**  
Minister

[minister@uucss.org](mailto:minister@uucss.org)

**Michael Holmes**

Music Director

[musicdirector@uucss.org](mailto:musicdirector@uucss.org)

**Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg**

Assistant Minister  
of Spiritual Growth

[AMSG@uucss.org](mailto:AMSG@uucss.org)

**Jeannette Jackson**

Church Administrator

[administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org)

**Doneby Smith**

Board President

[president@uucss.org](mailto:president@uucss.org)

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](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@uucss.org).

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