

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION *in the Assabet Valley*



October 18, 2026

Merger Celebration: "The Co-Creation of the Next"

Our Ministers:

**The Rev. Dr.
Cynthia L. Landrum**
Minister

Yaakov Trek Reef
Intern Minister

Our Board Officers:

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Guditz
Vice President

Lee Coopridner
Treasurer

Elizabeth Michaud
Clerk

Our Program Staff:

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious
Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Cynthia Menard
Spiritual Growth &
Community Center
Director

Our Administrative Staff:

Meg Rivers-Wright
Parish Administrator

Christine Towle
Publicity Coordinator

*Our Program
Support Staff:*

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care
Coordinator

*Our Administrative
Support Staff:*

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Tech Assistant
Tanner Metevier

UUCAV is a UUA Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.

Small portable radios are available to use throughout our building and grounds to listen to the service on **107.7 FM**, and are also our Assisted Listening Devices.
Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.

UUCAV has a masks-optional policy throughout the church. Several back rows in the sanctuary & those with accessible seating are "mask-required."

UUCAV is on the web at uucav.org and on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube.

October 18, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude

“Watermark”

Trevor Berens

Enya

Accompanist

Processional Hymn #145 “As Tranquil Streams” *Singing the Living Tradition*
Marshalls: Rev. Thomas A. Rosiello & Rev. Stephen M. Shick

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. As tranquil streams that meet and merge
And flow as one to seek the sea,
Our kindred hearts and minds unite
To build a church that shall be free — | 3. A freedom that reveres the past,
But trusts the dawning future more;
And bids the soul, in search of truth,
Adventure boldly and explore. |
| 2. Free from the bonds that bind the mind
To narrow thought and lifeless creed;
Free from a social code that fails
To serve the cause of human need: | 4. Prophetic church, the future waits
Your liberating ministry;
Go forward in the power of love,
Proclaim the truth that makes us free. |

Welcome

Brendon Chetwynd, UUCAV Board President

Opening Words

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, UUCAV Minister

Land Acknowledgement

Meg Rivers-Wright, UUCAV Administrator

Chalice Lighting: Stow

Rev. Thomas A. Rosiello, Minister Emeritus

Marlborough

Rev. Stephen M. Shick, Minister Emeritus

Acton

Michelle Coté, DRE Emerita

Lighting the Flames

Elizabeth Michaud, UUCAV Board

Hudson

Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann, Minister Emerita

Lighting the Flames

Nan Rogers Flavin, UUCAV Member

* Hymn #1020

“Woyaya”

Singing the Journey

We are going,
heaven knows where we are going,
but we know within.

but we'll get there,
heaven knows how we will get there,
but we know we will.

And we will get there,
heaven knows how we will get there,
but we know we will.

Woyaya, Woyaya,
Woyaya, Woyaya.

It will be hard, we know,
and the road will be muddy and rough,

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Centering

Greetings

Rev. Erica Baron, Congregational Life Staff, UUA
Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Co-Moderator, UUA

Greet Your Neighbor

Children and Parents are invited forward for the *Time for All Ages*.

A Time for All Ages

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
UUCAV Director of Religious Education &
Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, UUA President

Prayer or Meditation in Words & Silence

Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister

& Music

“After they Crumble/New Stone”

UUCAV Choir

Heidi Wilson

Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Exploring

Reading

“Next”

Cynthia Menard

Natalie Briscoe

UUCAV SGCC Director

Sharing Our Gifts

Morgan Wilson, UUCAV Member

This month we share our offering with **the UUCAV Supporting
Asylum Seekers Task Force**. You may donate by cash, check,
online at uucav.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.



Anthem

“Echoes of Time”

UUCAV Choir

Chris Hossfeld

Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Jessica Tunick Berens, soloist

Within my soul
I reach down
Into the depths of time.

Echoes of joy,
Echoes of pain,
Echoes of love ring out.

Echoes of life
Sing to the end,
Singing to find the way.

Am I the storm?
Am I raging?
Or am I the rain?
Am I falling?
Or am I the wind?
Am I calling?
Or am I again?
Am I being?

Within my soul,
Calling out,
Naming the echoes of time.

I am the storm,
I am raging,
And I am the rain,
I am falling,
And I am the wind,
I am calling,
And I am again,
I am being again.

Feeling, breathing,
Joining, healing
In love.

*** Act of Blessing & UUCAV Dedication**

- * Jennifer Rambridge, former UCMH Board President:** The *Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson* was a congregation looking for a future, and here we have found a home. We were a congregation looking to be welcomed, and the *First Parish Church of Stow and Acton* welcomed us in. We were a congregation looking to be seen for our strengths and our gifts, and you recognized the beauty in us.
- * Brendon Chetwynd, former FPC Board President:** The *First Parish Church of Stow and Acton* was a congregation we were ready to share, and we opened our hearts. We were a congregation that had strengths to share, but we also saw opportunity for growth, and we recognized in UCMH a complement to ourselves. We came to this merger together with a spirit of true union, partnership, and belonging, and found that we are more alike than different. We saw that together we are stronger and ready to face the future.
- * UUCAV Children and Youth:** Caring for our future, we raised our voices and our spirits in this process of merger. We celebrate the community we, too, are building and growing – **(Everyone:)- with great rejoicing!**
- * UUCAV Members:** Together we proclaim ourselves to be the *Unitarian Universalist Congregation in the Assabet Valley*. Together we will be a congregation that honors our shared history and works together to build the beloved community we dream of for the future. Here in the Assabet Valley, grounded in faith, centered in love, we will work to find our way – with song, art, intergenerational spiritual growth, and the work of justice. We pledge to be one community, working together as Unitarian Universalists – **(Everyone:) with great rejoicing!**
- * Gathered Community (All Others Present):** We celebrate with you that you have found this spiritual path of moving forward together. We give you our blessings and our support for the future, as community and faith partners – **(Everyone:) with great rejoicing!**

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

Returning

* Hymn

"This Boat"
Laura Zucker

Sing Out Love
(Sheet music for verses on piano)

© 2014, Laura Zucker. Sing Out Love expiration July 2028

Refrain



This boat is stead-y This boat is sure. When you're read - y
climb a - board When you're read - y grab an_ oar.
This boat will car - ry us to the far - thest shore.

Verse 1

We all know hardship
We all know pain.
But nothing ventured
means nothing gained
And evr'y rainbow needs the rain
you're not alone, try again.

Refrain.

Verse 2

Even if you've been tempest tossed
Even if you feel that all is lost
you've heard the thunder roar,
had a look at heaven's door
If you're sinking like a stone,
This boat will carry you home.

Refrain.

Bridge

In this boat there's nothing we can't do together
no matter the weather.

No matter that the charts aren't ours,
we will navigate by our stars.

Refrain.

* **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **Chalice Extinguishing Song**

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you.
Peace be with you 'til we meet again!

Postlude

"Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum"
Claude Debussy

Trevor Berens

Thank you to the special musicians in today's service:

Jessica Tunick Berens, *soprano soloist*; Trevor Berens, *piano*; Peter Fiske, *drums*;
John MacNeill, *saxophone*; Michael Merrill, *bass*. 🎵

Thank you to the UUCAV Choir, Chris Hossfeld, Music Director:

Lee Coopridner, Kathryn Denney, Andy Derr, Mary Evans, Steve Evans, Lisa Fagerstrom,
Scott Feldhusen, William Froberg, Deanne Glorioso, Robert Glorioso, Linda Hossfeld,
Emmeline Jones, Peter Karb, David Kay, John Kendrick, Margot Law, Geoffrey Lull, Ruth
Lull, Nancy Maldari, June McKnight, Caitlin Leigh McIntyre, Ian McIntyre, Michael
Merrill, Spencer Harris Morfit, Odette Newsome, Hannah Pemberton,
Johanna Pyle, Paul Reisberg, Quinci Sprague, Sue Stewart, Webb Tilney, Janet Tower,
Katy Weeks, and Trish Woods 🎵

Thank you to our many volunteers:

Joe Stadolnik & Roza Anthony, *Zoom & Tech Help*; Marcia Allison, Peter Fiske, Rick Lent,
Ushers; Jeff Brown, Rick Lent, *Coffee Hosts*; Sharon Brownfield & her Small Group
Ministry, Brendon Chetwynd, Kate Cremens-Basbas, Bob Glorioso, Trisha Guditz, Trish
Kwartler, Ruthie Hanlon, Latika Joshi, Josh Ledwell, Dave Kay, Ellen Kisslinger, Eileen
Kramer, Trish Kwalter, Kevin O'Brien, Jennifer Rambridge, Ann Sadler, Katy Weeks, and
Morgan Wilson, *Event Planning, Set-Up, & Clean-Up* ♥

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Greetings and congratulations will be given at the reception from:

State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Middlesex and Worcester District
Honorable Kate Hogan, Speaker Pro Tempore, 3rd Middlesex District
Alissa Nicol, Acton Select Board Chair
JT Toole, Stow Select Board Chair

Other officials, including ones from Hudson and Marlborough, send best wishes & regrets.

And enjoy music from our Parish Jazz Band:

Sara Beauvais, *vocals*; Peggy Langley, *flute*; Michael Paladini, *guitar*;
Quinci Sprague, *bass*; Steve Warnick, *piano* 🎵

To our visitors...Thank you for coming! ♥

Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a VISITOR CARD in your pew or online
- Check out OUR WEBSITE, www.uucav.org - There is so much happening! Our homepage and the "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our E-NEWSLETTERS & EMAIL GROUPS



VISITOR CARD



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NEWSLETTERS

Today's Speaker

Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, President, Unitarian Universalist Association

The Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt is the tenth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She was elected in June 2023. As president of the Association, she is responsible for administering staff and programs that serve its more than 1,000 member congregations. She also acts as principal spokesperson and minister-at-large for the UUA.

Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt's twenty-year ministry has included serving as a parish minister, seminary professor, scholar and environmental ethicist, and public theologian. Rooted in her lived identities as a queer, multiracial, AfroLatine first-generation daughter of immigrants from Chile and Panamá, Rev. Dr. Betancourt has already helped Unitarian Universalism live further into its commitments to be a radically welcoming, counter-oppressive, pluralistic faith movement. In addition to her many years of service as Director of the UUA's Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns and on many denominational leadership bodies, she also has previous experience with the role of president—in early 2017 she was appointed interim co-president to finish a vacated term, making her the first woman to lead the Unitarian Universalist Association. She most recently served as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor on Justice and Equity at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt has contributed to the education of future faith leaders at Yale Divinity School, Starr King School for the Ministry, and Drew University Theological School, teaching courses on topics such as ministerial leadership, theologies, womanism and Earth justice, and combatting oppression. Her own scholarship focuses on environmental ethics of liberation in a womanist and Latina feminist frame. She holds Ph.D., M.A., and M.Phil. degrees in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University, an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, and a B.S. from Cornell University with a concentration in ethnobotany. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is the author of *Ecowomanism at the Panamá Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics* (2022). She lives in the Washington, DC area.

Participants

Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann, Minister Emerita (video), UUCAV served the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson for 21 years in various roles, and was proclaimed minister emerita upon retirement. Alice “failed retirement” and was just installed as the minister of the Brookfield UU Church.

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson, Director of Religious Education, UUCAV, has been a Religious Educator for over fifteen years, also serving in CT, where Rayla lives with three children and many pets. Rayla has also served several roles within the UUA faith, including at Skinner House Press, Ferry Beach, and LREDA, and has written many writings, videos, and curricula on the UUA website and others.

Rev. Erica Baron, Congregational Life Staff, New England Region, UUA, focuses on helping congregations live into their missions and spiritual and leadership gifts, and brought those skills to help FPC and UCMH through the merger process. She has also served as minister for congregations in NY and VT.

Jessica Tunick Berens, Soprano Soloist, brings broad musical experience spanning Medieval chant, experimental music, folk, Balkan music, musical theater, and opera. She has performed internationally at venues including the Greek Theater, Christchurch Dublin, and Helmut List Halle in Graz. She is a CalArts graduate and certified Transformational Voice Institute teacher.

Trevor Berens, Accompanist, UUCAV, is a pianist, composer, and music therapist. His work spans classical and experimental music, free improvisation, and collaborative performance. He founded the ensemble Sonic Liberation Players, runs Berens Voice and Piano Studio in Pepperell with his wife, Jessica, works as a children’s music therapist, and accompanies the Halalisa Singers.

Brendon Chetwynd, Board President, UUCAV, served as president of the FPC board through our merger process. Brendon and his wife Kirsten, members since 2006, raised their two children, Rhiannon and Elliot, within the love of the FPC community.

Michelle Coté, DRE Emerita, UUCAV, served FPC 2008 - 2022, and was named DRE Emerita. Her tenure was marked by the creation of a social program for younger kids called Club UU (now Friday Friends). Michelle went on to serve the First Parish of Sudbury, from which she has recently retired.

Rev. Nan Rogers Flavin, UUCAV Member, and newly ordained Interfaith Minister, was on the Merger Exploration and Implementation Task Forces, and serves on the SGCC Committee at UUCAV. She is founder/creatix of WomanHearth where women of all ages share their stories, wisdom, and hearts, and WomanRoot which explores the Divine Feminine through an Interfaith lens.

Chris Hossfeld, Music Director, UUCAV, is a conductor, composer, singer, and pianist. His compositions have been performed at the Kennedy Center, Jordan Hall, and Gardner Museum. In Montréal, he conducted Opera da Camera and co-founded the vocal ensemble One Equall Musick. He is also Director of Music and Ritual and Instructor in Sacred Music at Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Co-Moderator & Co-Chief Governance Officer, UUA, and minister of the UU Congregation of the South Fork in Bridgehampton, NY, has served on numerous boards including the UU Service Committee, the UU Women's Federation, and Black Lives of UU. She has also served on the boards of the St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education, New York UU Justice, the Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations, and UU Class Conversations. She continues to teach Women's and Gender Studies – with a focus on diversity and difference – as an adjunct professor at New Jersey City University. Kimberly has a dozen nibblings who make her a very proud auntie.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister, UUCAV, served as the minister of the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton for eight years. This is her twenty-sixth year in ministry, having previously served churches in Michigan, Massachusetts, and Texas. She also currently serves on the UUA Commission on Social Witness. She and her husband and two cats are now empty nesters living in Marlborough.

Cynthia Menard, Spiritual Growth and Community Center Director, UUCAV, Shaman and Wiccan minister, served previously as Director of Religious Education and SGCC Director for UCMH. Cynthia holds a Master of Science degree in Conservation Biology, and previously worked as a naturalist and outdoor educator. She lives in Lunenburg with her beloved family and dog.

Elizabeth Michaud, Secretary of the Board, UUCAV, led the congregation through the merger process as chair of our New Name Task Force.

Jennifer Rambridge, Board member, UUCAV, served as the board President of UCMH through our merger process, and was part of the Merger Exploration, Merger Implementation, and New Name Task Forces. In addition, she has brought much of the charm of UCMH's coffee hour to UUCAV.

Yaakov Trek Reef, Intern Minister, UUCAV, also serves as the Student Minister & Community Minister of the First Universalist Parish of Chester, Vermont. In his twenties, he immersed himself in his Jewish heritage, receiving rabbinic ordination in 2013. In 2016, he thru-hiked all 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail! Trek lives in Billerica with his husband Justin and their cat Stardust.

Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administrator, UUCAV, has worked as a university administrator, public school English teacher, and personal trainer. She's a writer, photographer, and psychic medium, and loves guiding people to feel better about who they are. Meg lives in Maynard with her family and dogs.

Rev. Thomas A. Rosiello, Minister Emeritus, UUCAV, served FPC from 2002 - 2017, contributing to FPC's growth and vitality expanding our spirit, community, programming, and campus. He served on the board of the UU Urban Ministry for 12 years and as co-president of the Clara Barton Chapter of the UU Minister's Association. A "failure at retirement," he is currently lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende in Mexico.

Rev. Stephen M. Shick, Minister Emeritus, UUCAV, served as the Senior Minister for UCMH (2007-2013). He also served our faith nationally as Director of the UU Peace Network and as U.S. Program Director for the UU Service Committee. He is the author of three books and teaches seminars on the art of preaching extemporaneously - Rev. Cindy was a student of this!

Morgan Wilson, UUCAV Member, has jumped into UUCAV membership serving the Worship Committee and Communications Committee, and as an Usher, among other roles. As a UCMH member, he served on the board through the merger process, and on the Merger Exploration and the New Name Task Forces.

October Plate Share: UUCAV Supporting Asylum Seekers Task Force

SAS works to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our area. Founded in 2018, in recognition of the expanding need, we have supported dozens of families from such countries as Honduras, Afghanistan, Uganda, and Haiti. Thanks to your support, our work includes providing food, shelter, gas and transportation, clothing, cultural orientation, resume and job searching skills, other educational support, legal support, and so much more. Thank you for all that you have done and are doing, as needs grow exponentially. If you're interested in helping or joining the team, contact asylumsupport@uucav.org.

≧ This Week at UUCAV ≦

SUN 18	MON 19	TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22	FRI 23	SAT 24
SERVICE 10am <i>Sanctuary/ Online</i> RECEPTION LUNCHEON follows in <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	BUDDHIST BOOK & MEDITATION GROUP - SGCC* 7-8:30pm <i>online</i>	COFFEE & CHAT 10-11am <i>Gazebo*</i> <i>*In inclement weather, in church Vestry.</i> CHAIR YOGA- SGCC 10-11am <i>Gazebo*</i> New day! PEACE VIGIL 5-6pm <i>outside</i>	NOVEMBER CHRONICLE SUBMISSIONS DUE 5pm <i>office@ uucav.org</i> READING & MEDITATION 6:40-8:45pm <i>Hall/online</i> UKULELE MEETUP 7-9pm <i>Community Room</i>	PUB THEOLOGY - SGCC 7-8:30pm <i>Medusa Beer Garden, Houghton St. Hudson</i> WRITERS' GROUP 7-9pm <i>Parlor</i> CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:15-9:30pm <i>Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary</i>	BRIDGE GROUP 1-3:30pm <i>Community Rm.</i>	BUDDHIST BOOK & MEDITATION GRP - SGCC 9:30-10:30am <i>online</i> R.E. HALLOWEEN PARTY 5:30-8pm <i>Whole Campus</i>

* **The Spiritual Growth and Community Center (SGCC)** was founded at the Unitarian Church of Marlboro and Hudson in 2008; it is now the “outreach program arm” of UUCAV, providing the Assabet Valley region with participatory spiritual practices to awaken curiosity, joy, and personal growth. Program descriptions at <https://uucav.org/sgcc>.



SGCC PROGRAM
DESCRIPTIONS

Chronicle Submissions Due - Wed 10/21, 5pm - UUCAV's Monthly E-Newsletter - Email to Meg at office@uucav.org.

Ukulele Meet-Up Wed 10/21, 7-9pm, *Community Room*

Uke lovers of all levels are welcome to come and play and/or sing with the group. We have extra ukes for anyone who'd like to try them out.

Pub Theology - SGCC - Thu 10/22, 7-8:30pm, *Medusa Beer Garden on Houghton St. in Hudson* - Gather with our community for deep, respectful, and reflective conversations while enjoying drinks and treats.

R.E. Halloween Party Sat 10/24, 5:30-8pm, *Church Campus*

Join us for our Annual Halloween Party! Fun for all ages. Wear a costume and come join in crafts, dance, and more.

Next Sunday's Service 10/25, 10am, *Sanctuary and online*

"Living the Questions" - Rev. Susan Suchocki-Brown, Guest Minister
Our former sabbatical minister, Rev. Susan Sucocki-Brown, joins us for a service that continues our theme of “Living the Questions” – What are the questions - not the answers - that define us, as a faith community?

≧ Upcoming at UUCAV ≦

Samhain Circle: Descent Into the Underworld Fri, 10/30, 6-9pm, *Comm. Rm.*

- Cynthia Menard, SGCC Director, and Trek Reef, UUCAV Intern Minister

Explore your inner depths as we journey into the spirit realm to discover what death and rebirth hold for us this year. Weather permitting, we'll be outside for part of the ritual, and a warm layer is recommended. A potluck feast follows in the Vestry; please bring a dish to share if you're able.

Soul Collage - SGCC Sat, 10/31, 11-2 pm - *Community Room*

Which Witch Are You? A SoulCollage® Workshop - Join us for an afternoon of wicked fun as we explore the witch archetype through image and imagination with SoulCollage®. No collage experience needed — just curiosity. Led by trained SoulCollage facilitator, Nadine Lucas. \$10 material fee. Please register in advance: uucav.breezechms.com/form/soulcollage

Vigil for Democracy Sun, 11/1, 5pm, *Sanctuary*

Join us for an evening service of song, prayer, and hope for our democracy as we approach Election Day.

5th Annual Open Mic Night Sat, 11/7, 7pm, *Fellowship Hall*

To perform, please email Katy Weeks (katy.brightleaf@gmail.com) your name, a description of your act, whether you need any more equipment than the two microphones we'll provide, and the name of your accompanist, whether it's you, a friend, or teacher. - Emcees Katy Weeks & Dave Kay, Arts Committee

New Revival Coffeehouse Presents Bluegrass from Gentlemen's Gambit

Sat, 11/14, 7:30pm, *Fellowship Hall*

Gentlemen's Gambit is a Boston bluegrass supergroup composed entirely of current students at the Berklee College of Music. The group plays both original and traditional music.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the concert, and advance price

tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite.com. Coffee, tea and sweets will be available for purchase. Doors open at 7:00.



TICKETS:
GENTLEMEN'S GAMBIT