UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION *in the Assabet Valley*



November 22, 2026

Guest at Your Table Sunday

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 Cooprider
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.

November 22, 2026: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "Pastorale" Trevor Berens
Herman Schroeder Accompanist

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement Lee Cooprider, Board Treasurer

Opening Words "This Faith" Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum
Heide Cottam

Chalice Lighting

*** Hymn #349** "We Gather Together" *STLT*

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

(Spoken in unison)
Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its prayer.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to quest for truth in love,
and to help one another,
to the end that all souls
shall grow in harmony with the divine.
– One combination of UCMH and FPC Covenants

(Sung in unison)
From all that dwell below the skies
Let words of love and peace arise
Let joyful songs of praise be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.

submit your covenant idea at uucav.org/mycovenant2, and more thoughts at uucav.org/mycovenant

Greet Your Neighbor

A Time for All Ages "What Are Human Rights?" *UUSC Video*

Introducing Guest at Your Table and the UUSC

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@uucav.org.

Prayer or Meditation Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

In Words "All That We Share Is Sacred"
Rev. Andrée Mol

This blessing was written in honor of two Unitarians,
Martha and Waitstill Sharp, who, during WWII, dared to risk
their own comfort to help save the lives of those in desperate need.

In Silence

In Music Improvisation Trevor Berens, Accompanist

Exploring

Introducing Our Guests: "Yulia Kondur of Chiricli:
Neighboring Beyond Borders" Aimeé Ledwell
"Alejandro & Martha of Casa Tochan:
Radical Neighboring" *UUSC Video*

Plate Sharing Introduction Aimeé Ledwell, Native Justice Task Force

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our offering with the **United Native American Cultural Center**. You may donate by cash, check, online at uucav.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem "Grace" UUCAV Choir
Elizabeth Alexander Chris Hossfeld,
Ian and Caitlin McIntyre, solos Music Director

It's how I hold my head up after I have
missed the mark,
It's how I know I'm loved when things
are dark,
It's how I stand when I am feeling small,
How I stand again after a fall—
It's how I'm even standing here at all:
Some people call it Grace.

Falling down like rain on everyone,
So warm, like greetings from the sun,
Like a gentle snow it's making every
surface glow.
And I know I didn't earn it:
That's how I know it's Grace.

It's how two people keep their love alive
through thick and thin,
It's how a broken people sing again,
It's how the wounded set aside their
blame,
How the down-and-out cast off their
shame—
It's how I know that holy is my name.
We're all the same to Grace.

Falling down like rain on everyone,
So warm, like greetings from the sun,
Like a gentle snow it's making every surface glow.
And I didn't have to earn it.
No, I didn't have to earn it.

I didn't have to earn it through a word or through a deed,
Or through a trial or a creed,
Or by denying what I need.
I only had to reach out my hand and it was there.

But still it cannot take away the truths I have to face.
Oh no, that's not how it works with Grace.

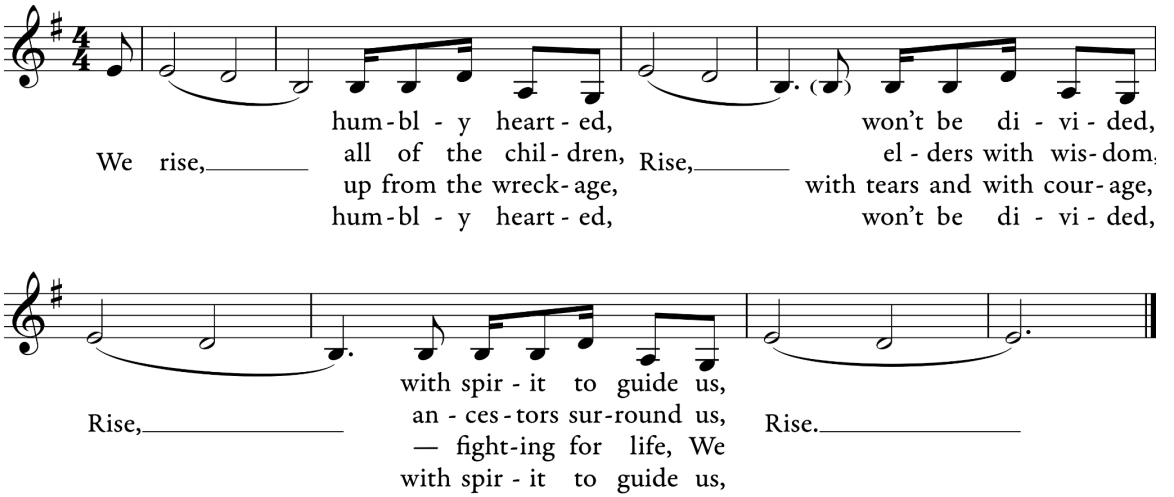
Falling down like rain on everyone,
So warm, like greetings from the sun,
Like a gentle snow it's making every surface glow.
And I know I didn't earn it.
No, I didn't have to earn it.
I didn't have to earn it.
That's how I know it's Grace.

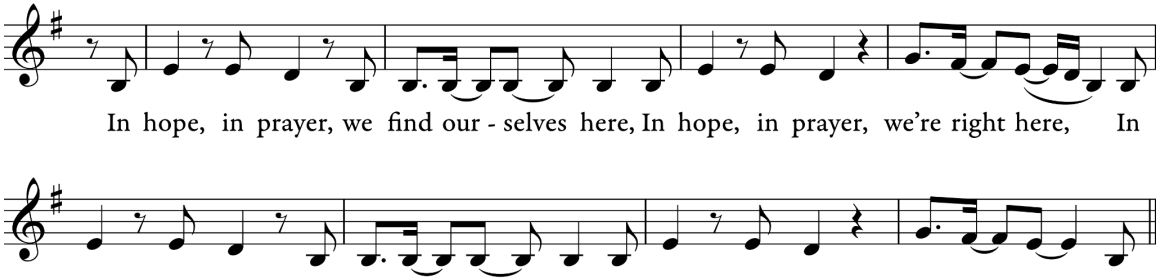
Introducing Our Guests: "UU Leaders of CAPAS: Welcoming our Neighbors" Mary Evans
"Widlore Mérancourt of Ayibopost: Uplifting Neighbors Narratives" *UUSC Video*

Reflections "Radical Neighboring" Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

Returning

*** Hymn** "We Rise" *Sing Out Love*



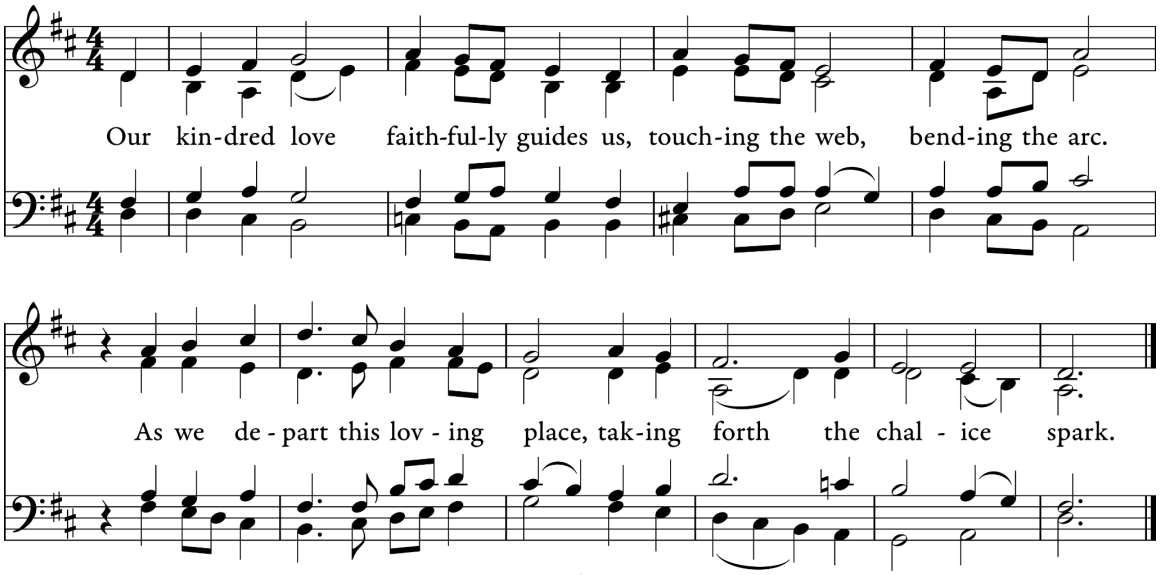


Words & music © Batya Levine. Sing Out Love expiration June 2029

*** Benediction** "Neighbors Everywhere" Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum
Rev. Laura Randall

*** Chalice Extinguishing & Lighting of Peace and Cost of War Candle**

*** Closing Song** "Touching the Web, Bending the Arc"
Cynthia Landrum, lyrics, and Chris Hossfeld, music



Postlude "Bridge Over Troubled Water" Trevor Berens
Simon & Garfunkel

When you're weary, feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes,
I will dry them all;
I'm on your side.
When times get rough
And friends just can't be found,
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.

When you're down and out,
When you're on the street,
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you.
I'll take your part.
When darkness comes
And pain is all around,
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.

Sail on silvergirl,
Sail on by.
Your time has come to shine.
All your dreams are on their way.
See how they shine.
If you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind.

Announcements

* * *

Thank you to:
Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host
Peter Fiske & Marcia Allison, Ushers
Joshua Ledwell, Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Hosts
Our staff and leadership

<u>To our visitors…Thank you for coming</u>! ♥
We hope you found what you're looking for and that you'll return.
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

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTERS

Today at UUCAV

➤**Religious Education** - Today we worship in the Sanctuary in an inter-gen service.

➤**Coffee Hour** - After the service in Fellowship Hall

➤**Intermediate Zentangle: Breaking the Rules** - 2-4pm in the Community Room (RESCHEDULED FROM 11/15) This class is for anyone who has learned the basics of Zentangle. Now that we have those down, we're going to change it up and break the rules! Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum is the minister of UUCAV, but she's also a Certified Zentangle Teacher. For this workshop, she'll bring you some of the latest ideas from Zentangle learned at the "ZenAgain" conference and other places. This workshop requires registration, is limited to 12 people, and has a materials fee. Go to https://tinyurl.com/Zentangle201 for a registration link!

Guest at Your Table

Next Door, Across Borders, and Worldwide

The Guest at Your Table program has introduced generations of Unitarian Universalists to our grassroots partners working for justice around the world with your support.This church year, we are honoring the community building of UUSC partners with the theme "Next Door, Across Borders, and Worldwide."



Widlore Mérancourt is a journalist fighting for state accountability and community care in Haiti.



Yulia Kondur is advocating for gender equity and human rights for the Roma community in Ukraine.



Martha and Alejandro are creating a home for people in migration at Casa Tochán in Mexico.



UUs like you are building communities of welcome the Community Accompaniment Program with Asylum-Seekers (CAPAS).

Learn more about our grassroots partners by visiting: **UUSC.ORG/GUEST**

⩾ Announcements ⩽

<u>November Plate Share</u>: United Native American Cultural Center

The UNACC's mission is committed to supporting and promoting Native American cultural heritage. Through educational programs, community events, and cultural workshops, we strive to foster understanding and appreciation of the diverse traditions and histories of Native American peoples. You can support us by participating in our events, volunteering, or donating to help further our mission. We offer a variety of resources including literature, workshops, and online materials to help everyone learn about our heritage. <u>www.unacc.org</u>

- UUCAV Liaison Aimeé Ledwell



<u>Annual Holiday Gift Drive</u> The Holiday Gift Drive for guests of *Voices Against Violence* and *Renewal House* is waiting for YOU! Guests of these shelters often leave home with nothing but the clothes on their backs, young kids in tow. Each year the shelters send a thank you note expressing gratitude for our help and telling us how much the gifts mean to their guests. This event truly defines the meaning of giving during the holiday season; thanks so much for helping spread that spirit. If you have questions, contact your Holiday Elves at <u>gift-drive@uucav.org</u>.

Visit <u>uucav.org</u>	Scroll down the page and click the Gift Drive's picture for a history of the gift drive and a link to our *SignUpGenius* page for claiming gifts. 
You can also go directly to our *SignUpGenius* page: Scan to donate a gift	**<u>https://tinyurl.com/holiday-gift-drive</u>** Make sure to scroll through the entire list! The requests at the end are often the last to be filled. Return the gifts you purchase, unwrapped, to the church atrium on **<u>Friday, December 4, 3-6pm</u>** or **<u>Saturday, December 5, 10am-1pm</u>.** Attach the <u>recipient and shelter name</u> to each gift. Gift cards should be returned in an envelope with the recipient and shelter name written on the front.

⩾ This Week at UUCAV⩽

MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28
Buddhist Book & Meditation Group (SGCC) *Online* 7-8:30pm **Jazz Band Rehearsal** *Sanctuary* 7-9pm	**Coffee & Chat** *Gazebo* *(Vestry in rain)* 10-11am **Chair Yoga (SGCC)** *Community Rm.* 1:30-2:30pm **Peace Vigil** *Outside* 4:30-5:30pm **Indigenous Justice Task Force** *Zoom* 7-8pm	**Meditation & Reading** *Hall/Online* 6:40-8:45pm	**THANKSGIVING** **Congregational Potluck Thanksgiving** *Fellowship Hall* 12-2pm	**Bridge Group** *Community Rm* 1-3:30pm . **Playing with Tarot! (SGCC)** *Community Room* 7-9pm	**Buddhist Book & Meditation Group (SGCC)** *Online* 9:30-10:30am

Chair Yoga with Corina (SGCC) - Tue, Nov 24, 1:30-2:30pm, *Community Room*
(beginner-friendly) Experience all the benefits of yoga in this supported chair class, even if you struggle to get on and off the floor or are dealing with injury, pain, or illness that limits movement and range of motion. Please register in advance: uucav.org/yogareg

Indigenous Justice Task Force - Tue, Nov 24, 7-8pm, *Zoom*

Congregational Potluck Thanksgiving, Thu, Nov 26, 12 noon, *Fellowship Hall*
Contact Ellen Anthony with your willingness to help set up or clean up, what you'd like to bring, other details: ellenanthony@gmail.com This is not a public event.

Playing with Tarot! (SGCC) - Fri, Nov 27, 7-9 pm, *Community Room*
Our gatherings combine discussions on tarot topics, reading introspectively for ourselves and each other, playing with our decks in unconventional ways, and group readings. Our gatherings focus on intuitive reading, not learning each card in the tarot. Telling ourselves that we're playing rather than learning puts us in a more relaxed mindset, which makes it easier to access our intuition. Bring your favorite tarot deck and see how fun tarot can be without the rules! No tarot experience required - extra decks are available for those without.

Next Sunday's Service - Sun, Nov 29, 10am, *Sanctuary* and *online*
"This I Believe" A lay-led service, more details to come.

COMING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

This year we are doing Stewardship in a different way. We want to provide an opportunity for our newly merged congregation to get to know each other, learn how we want to be as a community, while also making a monetary commitment to achieve our shared goals.



Stewardship is planning to have Stewardship Get-Togethers in January and February, when a group of pledgers will meet with a Steward after a fun social event. We hope everyone at UUCAV will attend one of these events. Pledge cards will be available at the Get-Togethers, and online pledging will always be available.

Current Get-Togethers include potluck suppers at congregants homes, a pancake breakfast at church, afternoon teas, Saturday and Sunday brunches, and an historical tour of the church with snacks and drinks. Some of the Get-Togethers welcome children to attend, and a babysitter will be provided while adults have conversations about our congregation, generosity, and why UUCAV is so important in our lives.

Sign-ups for the Get-Togethers will be in December during coffee hour with a *SignUpGenius* follow-up.

We are still looking for a few additional hosts. Hosts will coordinate the social gathering, any potluck items, and location of the Get-Together. Each host will be supported by a steward who will facilitate the gathering and discussion of our congregation, why UUCAV is important in our lives, what programs and events we especially value, and how we can support the congregation through participation and pledging.

Don't forget to sign up for one of the gatherings in December. It will be a great opportunity to get to know members of our community and share in a fun event.

Questions? Contact us at stewardship@uucav.org, or talk to one of us at church.

- Andy Derr, Sharon Brownfield, Peter Fiske, Barb Kostick, and Roza Anthony