



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 22, Issue 5

May 2020

May Services

Theme: Thresholds

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

May 3	Preemptive Radical Inclusion <i>Guest speaker CB Beal</i> CB will share reflections on the idea of Preemptive Radical Inclusion (PRI) as an entryway to increase justice and equity among ourselves and in the world, a way to embody beloved community in this time of physical isolation and social connection.
May 10	RE Service <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i> Every age of childhood is a threshold of one sort or another. Children are perpetually changing and growing, moving from one age and stage into the next. Join us for a special worship service designed and delivered by the children in our Religious Education Program.
May 17	TBA <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i>
May 24	Military Service: A Mixture of Many Things <i>Lay speaker Sheila Stoner</i> Why would anyone, especially one with Quaker-like feelings, ever join the military? Oh, and trans to boot. 100 years of family service, including both my children.
May 31	TBA <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i>

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UUCSJS

will be held via [Zoom](#) on

SUNDAY, June 21, 2020

(immediately following the Sunday service)

President's Corner

As I tried to summon some mental strength to write my monthly President's message, I came across this message in my email inbox.

From our UUA President, Susan Frederick Gray:

"This week marked 50 days that my family and I have been sheltering-in-place with the exception of infrequent trips to the grocery store and walking the dog. The adrenaline of the urgent transitions of the beginning of the pandemic is giving way to the grief over the loss of loved ones, the pain of distance, the fear of what is to come, the anger at the mismanagement of the crisis at the highest levels, and a weariness that comes with understanding we will have to live with social distance and virtual community for a long time."

Susan Frederick Gray's words encapsulate the emotions that a lot of us are feeling right now, and the last part about the "weariness" really struck home with me. I see it and hear it in the voices and faces of my patients that I am still trying to treat every day. They want to know when things will be "back to normal" again, and I wish for the time that I can give a reassuring hug or even just a simple handshake greeting. I see it in my colleagues in the office -- we are all complaining about mask-wearing "headaches" at the end of the day, even though we understand that we are lucky not to be on the front lines of the pandemic, and we are trying to be grateful for having our jobs. I see it in my family, as we all seem to be overly tired, yet not able to sleep. I see it in the faces of the congregation, during our Sunday morning Zoom services. Some "Zoom fatigue" has started to set in, as we are all a little sick of watching ourselves in little boxes on a computer or phone screen. We also long for the return of physical meeting, greeting, and of course, actual coffee hour.

Time also seems to be moving in a different dimension right now. At times, it seems like it is passing so slowly, and yet, it seems like just yesterday that we were hearing the news about the Coronavirus outbreak in China, and we all were thinking, "Oh, we won't get that here" ...

It is hard for me to wrap my mind around the fact that our church year is also coming quickly to a close, which means that my role as Board President is also coming to an end. The Board has been working on

plans for our Annual Meeting, which for the first time ever will take place in a virtual manner. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 21 (which is also Father's Day) following the regular Sunday morning Zoom service. Please mark your calendars. There will be more information forthcoming about how this will all work, as we want to make sure to be able to include all members. For those members not able to attend by computer or phone, mail in ballots will be available.

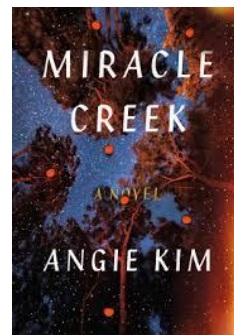
Reverend Gray reminds us to take care of ourselves during these trying times, and to take "time to do things to nurture and replenish our spirits." I am trying to spend more time doing yoga and light meditation, in addition to getting some outside exercise regularly, which has been helpful. I am also trying to maintain an attitude of gratitude, which includes being grateful for everyone at UUCSJS - you are all a blessing to me in so many ways.

With Love,

~ Melissa Hutchison

PS. No medical updates in this message; I'm experiencing COVID 19 information overload :-)

BOOK CLUB will again meet via email on our usual meeting date, Friday, May 15. Email Barb Morell with any questions.



Creek.

MIRACLE CREEK by Angie Kim, is the story of struggle -- which as we know, comes in many forms: financial struggles, immigration, integration, fertility challenges, interracial marriage, special needs parenting, loss, and marital relationships. These issues are all explored and part of the big picture in *Miracle*

MARGARET CIRCLE will meet again by email on Thursday, May 7.

Denise O'Meara has the topic, and she will provide us with a short article to read on resilience: "Four Ways You Can Boost Your Resilience for Tough Times." Participants will share by email a time when they demonstrated resilience in getting through a difficult time in their lives. If you are not on the Margaret Circle list and wish to participate, please email Betsy Searight.

Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782

Rev. Dawn is on leave this week.

They'll be preaching three Sundays in May.



Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle
is **@queerpreacher**
You can tweet about
UUCSJS

**NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
UUCSJS**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the South Jersey Shore

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the
UUCSJS

will be held via **Zoom** on

SUNDAY, June 21, 2020

(immediately following the Sunday service)

for the purposes of: approving
the budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal
Year; electing members of the
Board of Trustees, Nominations
Committee, and Committee on
Ministry; and transacting such
other business as may come
before the congregation.

About our guest speaker....

CB Beal is a Unitarian Universalist religious educator, a sexuality educator, and director of Justice and Peace Consulting based in Easthampton, MA. They served the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence as Director of Religious Education for 16 years. A member of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) since 2000, they have served on the LREDA board and as a Good Officer.

An experienced educator, CB has trained Our Whole Lives sexuality education facilitators and trainers and has co-led most of the Renaissance professional development modules offered by the UUA. CB's faith-centered, engaging, and effective work with religious educators and lay leaders, grounded in the philosophy, process, and practice of "preemptive radical inclusion," points Unitarian Universalist professional leaders, communities, and congregations toward justice and equitable ways to embody being Beloved Community together.

In 2019 the UUA awarded to CB the Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education. The UUA presents the MacLean Award each year to someone who has made outstanding contributions to religious education. The award was established in 1972 by the St. Lawrence University Theological School Alumni Association and the Religious Education Department of the UUA.



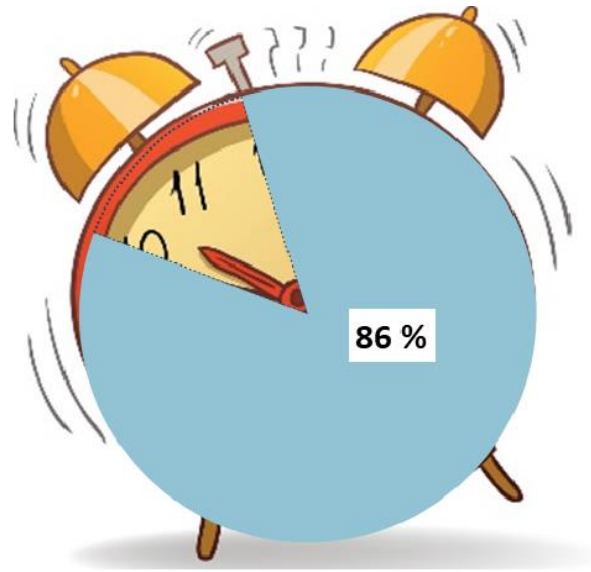
NOW More than Ever

UUCSJS 2020-2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign

Current pledges from 54 households total \$160,776 towards our \$188,000 Goal (86 %)

To put those numbers in a broader context, **last year we had 70** pledging households. So there are a number of people that I haven't heard from yet this year. Last year the financial commitments totaled \$182,000 so we are a bit short of that.

Planning the budget for next year feels a bit more daunting than usual. I will do what I can to develop a realistic and responsible budget, while retaining financial support for the programs and services that we all value. You will see the proposed budget in advance of our annual meeting **Sunday, June 21, 2020**.



For those of you who have not yet submitted your pledges, please do when you are able.

There are two ways to submit your pledge:

1) Fill out the pledge card and return it to our **mailing** address:

PO Box 853

Pomona, NJ 08240

2) You can **email** the amount of your financial commitment for next year to Karen York.

To the members and friends in 54 households that have completed their pledged of support for the year ahead, I thank you so much the voluntary generosity that sustains our congregation. Now more than ever, let's look to the future!

~ Karen York, Treasurer

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Planning Faith Development in a Time of Uncertainty

By now I think you all know how much I love experiments. And this last month has provided the opportunity for so many experiments! Live, virtual Sunday service? Sure, why not. Children's Religious Education through Zoom? Of course! A multigenerational book discussion? Well, yeah. Community movie night? OK, that one didn't work out so well, but maybe game night? How about a virtual dance party? Oh, shall I even say it, an adult religious education class?

In January, our Children's Religious Education program began an experiment called RE Learning Lab. Unfortunately, our experiment was temporarily cut short after only two months when our building closed. That didn't stop our experimentation though! We moved RE Lab online and have been meeting each Tuesday afternoon to share our joys and concerns, hear wonderful stories, and take our learning to real-life with projects, missions, and crafts. We've recreated famous works of art, made sculptures out of junk, thought up new ways to care for our planet, and planned family dinners. While we aren't getting any visitors to our program, our children are maintaining their sense of community and learning together even when we can't meet in person.

This learning will continue into the summer months. Children's programming will take a break from June 29-July 13, 2020, but July 14 will be the beginning of our RE Lab Summer Series, The Six Sources in Story and Lego! During the six weeks of this series (July 14 - August 18) children will log on during our Tuesday gathering to hear a story from one of Unitarian Universalism's six sources. They will then build something with their legos that

relates to the story and source. Children will need to register for this program and will receive a Lego pack to use at home. Parents of registered children will be sent more information or you can email uucsjsdre@gmail.com for more information or to register.

The Religious Education program now has experiments going virtual with children's religious education, family ministry and engagement, and family faith development at home. I would love to add some experiments for multigenerational gatherings and adult religious education. The RE Committee is brainstorming ideas for online multigenerational FUUN events, so keep an eye out for that in the weekly announcements and on our Facebook page.

Along with the Children's RE Summer Series, I would like to add an Adult RE Summer Series this year. The UUA offers a number of adult programs that could be adapted for experimenting online from "New to UU" and UU history to deepening your spiritual awareness and designing your own spiritual practice to odyssey writing for elders and ethics for UU's. What better way to spend some of our stuck at home time than learning something new about ourselves and our faith! If you would like to request an adult education offering or have an idea you think others would be interested in, please email uucsjsdre@gmail.com. More information on topics and times will be available soon. I look forward to experimenting and growing in faith with you!

*In Fellowship,
Jessica Dunn Safonof
Director of Religious Education*





UUCSJS

Stay connected to our community!

Sunday

Worship on Zoom at 10 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/2246776604?pwd=cEQ3YTRBOU9hTTIYTTFab0RkQ0dRUT09>
(Meeting ID: 224 677 6604, password 306591)

BY PHONE, Dial: 1-929-436-2866 and wait for the prompt. then enter:
224-677-6604# and password 306591

Tuesday

Calling all kids! Join Ms. Jess for RE Lab at 3 pm

For privacy and safety reasons, please email uucsjsdre@gmail.com for an invitation to this Zoom Meeting.

Wednesday

Pastoral Chat with Rev. Dawn 7 pm

Log on at Zoom worship link above to video chat with Rev. Dawn and others in our community.

Thursday

Common Arts for DIY Hearts 7 pm

Join us in this open makers space to work on your current project with company. **All makers and all ages welcome.**

<https://zoom.us/j/774193628?pwd=MXM2eHBaZTVGekIDVEZCdm9nVGhxZz09>

Friday

Pastoral Chat with Rev. Dawn 1 pm

Log on at Zoom worship link above to video chat with Rev. Dawn and others in our community.

Calling all kids for Friday Night Fun 7 pm

Spend some time just hanging out having fun together in this open zoom room for kids. Bring your current art projects, your legos, whatever. We will talk, play games, hang out. For privacy and safety, please email uucsjsdre@gmail.com for an invitation to this Zoom meeting.

Saturday

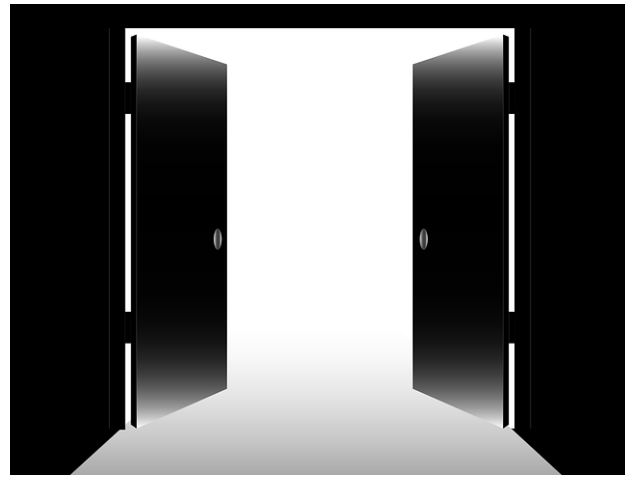
Parents/Caregivers Happy Hour 7 pm

Join <https://zoom.us/j/190774348?pwd=SmJlY0pTQVZJekhUV1lqMjJPSSStqdz09> to video chat with other parents and caregivers in our community.

I Will Not Die an Unlived Life

By [Dawna Markova](#)

I will not die an unlived life
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance;
to live so that which came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.



THRESHOLDS

By [Arlen Goff](#)

Thresholds.
We cross them every day.
From room to room,
from outside to inside,
and back again,
from here to there,
from anywhere to everywhere,
from age to age.

Each threshold offers an opportunity
for change, for renewal, for transformation,
from what we were and what we are
to what we can be.

In this hour and in this place,
we cross a threshold from
our day-to-day everydayness into
space and time attuned to the other,
to the sacred, to the holy,
into an awareness of new life
pregnant with possibilities.

How will we be renewed in this moment?
How will we be changed by this hour?
How will we be transformed through this
gathering of beloved community?

Come, you longing, thirsty souls!
Come, let us worship together!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

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Board of Trustees 2019-2020

Betsy Erbaugh, Melissa Hutchison, Kit Marlowe,
Martin Quish, Geoff Stuart, Angela Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

May 2020

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
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Pomona, NJ 08240**

