

Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 13, Issue 09 September 2011

September Services

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.

September 4	Meet Kurt Vonnegut Lay speakers Pam Hendrick and Jon Luoma The novelist Kurt Vonnegut, a humanist born into a religiously liberal family, belonged to no church, but sometimes called himself a Unitarian, and once delivered a keynote speech to the UU General Assembly. Often with humor, he has much to say about peace, war, foolishness, faith, life and death. We'll spend a few moments "unstuck in time" with this American writer. (Rescheduled from August 28.)
September 11 Annual picnic after services	Thirsting For Community - a Water Ceremony Pastor Charlie Dieterich This intergenerational service will include commemoration of 9/11/01 and also celebration of community, for joy and sadness are often intertwined. Bring about an ounce of water in a reusable or recyclable container. Our annual UUCSJS community picnic will follow.
September 18	Changing the World One Step at a Time Guest speaker John Francis This service will celebrate the life, work and teachings of Peace Pilgrim, an American woman who dedicated her life to the cause of peace in a unique and powerful way. Drawing inspiration from this remarkable person who truly "walked her talk" for a peaceful world, we will be looking at the interconnections between inner and outer peace and how these manifest in our lives and in the world.
September 25	Platform Diving Pastor Charlie Dieterich No, not the Steel Pier, but an examination of the founding document of Congregational Polity. The Cambridge Platform, a document from 1649, defines how our congregations work together and govern themselves Seventeenth Century decisions which still influence us today, and guide us into the future.

3rd Annual UU Community Picnic

September 11, 2011 following the service

Everyone is welcome to join the FUUN committee for food, games and fun with our whole UUCSJS family! Please bring a dish to share.

For the September 11 service, remember to bring a small amount of water from your travels or waters having some special meaning to you. We will combine that water with waters from previous years. This tradition has various meanings to UU congregations: some see it as a symbolic welcoming back from summer vacation travels, others as a welcoming to new members, others as a reaffirmation of our sixth principle using water as the symbol of interconnectedness, and still others as a representation of the melding of past with present.

From Pastor Charlie Dieterich:

This summer season certainly had an interesting ending! I very much hope you were safe from the storm. I'm writing this during my final days at my job in New Orleans, a town which gets very nervous when there are active hurricanes. My coworkers at the East Jefferson General Hospital are all wishing me luck as I travel to New Jersey and were also fearful that awful things might happen.

And so it is interesting that water will be the subject of my first sermon. Certainly down here in New Orleans, we see it as both good and bad. Still, in much of the world water makes the community. Access to clean, safe water determines which community thrives, and which one dies. The Pinelands is preserved because there is a huge reservoir of water beneath the surface, and, of course, Atlantic City exists because of the seashore.

By coincidence, our Water Ceremony service will occur on September 11th. Just as water can be both a blessing and an agent of destruction, so our service will be both a commemoration of tragedy and a celebration of connection. As we begin our year together, let us each bring a small sample of water from our lives: Tap water, Rain water or Water from a stream. On this day our waters mingle to renew our community. Bring about an ounce of water in a reusable or recyclable container and enjoy our intergenerational service.

Being brand new, I expect to spend time meeting many of you, hearing stories, learning what matters in your life. I know that the congregation comes from all across southern New Jersey, and I am also expecting diversity in why members come. The board has hired me as a half-time consulting minister to help us find paths to growth, enhance visibility in the community and to provide a pastoral presence. I look forward to your guidance, help and support.

As I sit here writing this I am "Charlie the Chaplain," visiting patients in a coronary care unit of a community hospital. But as of September first, when I arrive in town, I will be "Pastor Charlie," a rather quaint title I'm using because I am not Rev. Dieterich and "Half time Consulting Minster Dieterich" just sounded wordy. In some ways I'm still learning the art of ministry, though I did spend a year with three congregations in the New Orleans area. My formal training has ended, but the congregation has a chance to continue to help me grow through a special "Committee on Ministry" to advise and help me. You'll hear more on this in the near future.

Before the end of the month I will be taking a trip to Boston to meet with the "Ministerial Fellowship Committee" of the Unitarian Universalist Association. So I will be gone from about the 17th to the 24th. Then on September 25th I will return with a sermon on governance, and how an organization's function follows its form! In our case, it's a document called the Cambridge Platform.

One thing special about being a "half-time minister" is that the Congregation will still have plenty of time to hear guest speakers and voices from within, or, in the case of the September fourth service, your voice! I am excited to see such diversity, and I hope you come each Sunday for refreshment and renewal.

With Love, Chaplain/Pastor Charlie Dieterich

About this month's guest speaker, **John Francis**:

How long could you survive without your car? For the many Americans who think nothing of driving 10 blocks to buy a gallon of milk, the answer is obvious. But before any of you dedicated pedestrians and die-hard cyclists start feeling smug, try this question: How long could you survive without talking?

Chances are, nowhere near as long as John Francis did. After a massive oil spill polluted San Francisco Bay in 1971, Francis gave up all motorized transportation. For 22 years, he walked everywhere he went -- including treks across the entire United States and much of South America -- hoping to inspire others to drop out of the petroleum economy.

Soon after he stopped riding in cars, Francis, the son of working-class, African-American parents in Philadelphia, also stopped speaking. For 17 years, he communicated only through improvised sign language, notes, and his ever-present banjo. The environmental pilgrim says he took his vow of silence as a gift to his community "because, man, I just argued all the time." But it may have been Francis who benefited most of all. For the first time, he found he was able to truly listen to other people and the larger world around him, transforming his approach to both personal communication and environmental activism.

Francis started speaking again on Earth Day 1990. The very next day, he was struck by a car. He refused to ride in the ambulance, insisting on walking to the hospital instead. With a Ph.D. in land resources (earned during his silence), he was later recruited by the U.S. Coast Guard to write oil-spill regulations and by the United Nations Environment Program to serve as a goodwill ambassador.

Francis, the author of *Planetwalker: How to Change Your World One Step at a Time*, is now preparing for a second environmental walk across America.

From http://www.grist.org/article/hertsgaard-francis, where you can read the full interview.



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

A heart-felt thanks to all who've contributed to our weekly collections for animal shelters, pet food pantries, and animal rescue organizations. Last month we collected for the Beacon Animal Rescue, Kibble Cupboard, and Atlantic County Canines. All of these groups were deeply appreciative of the items received and people who donated them. Seeing the commitment and loving kindness these mostly volunteer organizations show in helping, rehabilitating, fostering, and providing a second chance for these animals is inspiring. We applaud their efforts and hope we can all continue supporting them through our contributions.

We hope our participation in the Cole Brothers Circus protest last month was effective in getting the message across that circus animals are cruelly and inhumanely treated. Wild animals should not be coerced via electric shock, hooks and beatings to perform – or confined in small cages. Cole Brothers Circus is notorious for their animal cruelty and abuse, which has been well documented. For more information, please check out http://www.animalrightsflorida.org/ColeBros.htm. Thanks to all who participated.

Please note a change in our monthly meeting schedule. We will now meet the 4th Sunday of the month. The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 25 following services at 11:30 am.

-- Cynthia Grzywinski, SJAA Coordinator

The question is not, "Can they reason?" nor, "Can they talk?" but rather, "Can they suffer?" ~Jeremy Bentham

Child Dedication for Henry McNair -

Sunday, September 4 at 12pm You are invited to join Tara and Tamika McNair for little Henry's dedication following our coffee hour on September 4.

Did you miss a Sermon?

Many of our previous sermons are available for reading on our web site, and a few are even available in video format. If you've missed a Sunday or want to back and read or listen to a previous sermon, just visit

http://www.uucsis.org/sermons.html

On September 11, 2011, South Jersey will remember. Bridge of Faith, an Interfaith Fellowship of Christians, Jews and Muslims, joined by nearly 60 Co-Sponsors, invites you to join us to sing and speak out together against violence, prejudice, hatred and discrimination.

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Doors Open 2 pm
Program begins promptly at 3 pm
At Beth El Synagogue
500 N Jerome Ave, Margate

Event Chairpersons:

Kaleem Shabazz, Masjid Muhammad Rabbi Aaron Krauss, Beth El Synagogue Rev. Rozelia Matthews, Salem United Methodist Church Cantor Ralph Goren, Music Director, Beth El Synagogue

Park Free at Beth Judah Synagogue, 700 N. Swarthmore Ave, Ventnor. Then take free Shuttle Bus to Beth El Synagogue.

For details on the program and sponsors, visit http://9-11memorialsouthjersey.org

Time for a new UUCSJS Members photo book.

Our last one is 3 years old, and the kids have grown, and hairstyles have changed. Furthermore, one third of our members are too new to be included in it, although we do have their photos.

If you are a family with children who are a part of our community and have outgrown their three year old photo, or if you think that the old photo we have of you should be updated, then we want to take your picture during the month of September. Both Mariann Maene and Betsy Searight will have their cameras each Sunday, and will meet those who are ready to have their photo taken. We will be by the closet doors in the Sanctuary after the service. Please make our job easier by taking the initiative.

Another option is to send an electronic photo to Betsy (email in directory).

Note: our photo book is of members and some spouses only, although we love everyone who is in our community. If you are not a member, and feel excluded, this is a good sign that you should become a member.

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, September 1, 1 pm

We will welcome each other back from summer hiatus on Thursday, September 1, at 1 pm, in the Center's Library, looking forward to sharing how each of us had enjoyed their vacation time. It's good to have life settle back into our regular routines after the freedom of the season. Judy Brown will provide the refreshments.

-- Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader

UUCSJS Core of Fire dance group

If you are interested in participating in the formation of this new group contact Theresa McReynolds (email in directory). No dance experience necessary, just a willingness to express yourself through music and movement.

The Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) has from the beginning been one of the groups we have collected for each Sunday. They have sent out a request for the following things: diapers, wipes, toilet paper, women's toiletries, household cleaning supplies, and hair products. Recently our support for CARA has dropped significantly. We hope that we can continue supporting this organization in the vital work that they perform in our community. -- Bob & Peg Gillies

Read about Henry Bergh: 'The great meddler'

On a New York street corner on April 22, 1866, Unitarian Henry Bergh gathered his courage and approached a cart driver unmercifully beating his exhausted horse. "My friend, you can't do that anymore." Astonished, the driver exclaimed, "Can't beat my own horse?—the devil I can't," and resumed. Bergh added, "You are not aware, probably, that you are breaking the law, but . . . I have the new statute in my pocket, and the horse is yours only to treat kindly." Mouth agape, the driver advised, "Go to hell—you're mad!"

That unpromising encounter launched two intertwined North American social movements: prevention of cruelty to animals and to children.

Read more at uuWorld:

www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/183480.shtml

For essays at the intersection of science and society...

Book Group Returns in September to Discover What the Dog Saw and Other Adventures

Consider this: Why are there dozens of varieties of mustard but only one variety of ketchup? Or this: What does hair dye tell us about the history of the twentieth century? These are only two of many unusual subjects in Malcolm Gladwell's What the Dog Saw and Other Adventures. Join us on Friday evening, September 20 at 7pm in the UU Center Library to talk about this potpourri of essays. Helene Gentile leads the discussion; bring a light snack to share, if you wish.

"The Talent Myth: Are Smart People Overrated?" and "Open Secrets: Enron, Intelligence, and the Perils of Too Much Information" are two of 19 essays in this collection, all previously published in The New Yorker. One critic writes of author Gladwell: "He avoids shopworn topics, easy moralization, and conventional wisdom, encouraging his readers to think again and think different." (NYT Book Review)

Amazingly, movie makers have chosen three of our last year's selections for big-screen release in 2011: Water for Elephants, Sarah's Key, and now The Help. Then on August 14 the Diane Rehm Show's "Readers' Review" featured The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (definitely recommended for online listening). Her guests debated literary quality, recalled the privations of the war, described the beauty of the Channel Islands, and along the way, revealed that a film is now in the works. So that makes it four!

Meanwhile, this year's new choices continue with *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry in October (a mystery with a cast of fascinating eccentrics, set in Salem) and in November, *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand (recommended by three separate book group members).

If you would like to get email reminders and other literary-related notices, contact Judy Pereira. And hope we see you, in September! Simply arrive at the appointed time, everybody most welcome. You can discover at last, what *did* the dog see?

Everyone has to eat!

Buy Gift Cards any Sunday for Acme & Shoprite.

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%.

We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS August 2011

At its **Regular monthly meeting** on Tues., August 16, 2011, the Board of Trustees considered the following reports and items of ongoing and new business:

- **Finance Committee Report** The Board acknowledged receiving the monthly report, "UUCSJS Fund Balances" from vacationing chair, John Searight, who also reported that UUCSJS has begun the move toward becoming a fair compensation congregation with the enrollment of staff members Heidi Jannsch and Barbara Miller into the UUA Retirement Plan.
- Treasurer's Report Treasurer Prim Reeves presented her detailed "Financial Report for July 2011," mentioning that first quarterly pledge statements will go out at the end of September. The Board approved reassignment of a small balance from Designated Fund "Artwork" (line 115) to outdoor landscaping. It was reported that Jeff and Marie Taylor are returning the amount of their reimbursement for General Assembly (GA) expenses, asking that this be applied to next year's GA fees. The treasurer presented the letter she had received thanking the UUCSJS for our July contribution of \$817.05 to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund.

Treasurer Reeves sought Board approval for "Section 3.0 – Fundraising" from her proposed *Financial Policies and Procedures Manual,* in preparation for future requests to hold fundraising events, solicitations, and sales at the UU Center. After discussion, *motion passed unanimously* to approve the new Fundraising section and its accompanying "Fundraiser Request Form." The information will be available in the UU Center Office and also on our website.

• Committee on Ministry – President Jim Gentile proposed the Board join forces with Richard Grzywinski and the Ministerial Search Committee on Sun., August 28, when they will address the Congregation on the year-long minister selection process, then to initiate a review by the Board of previously gained insights on having a part-time minister, in preparation for the arrival of new Consulting Minister, Charlie Dieterich, on September 1.

A Board subcommittee of three presented a draft of proposed new bylaws for the Committee on Ministry. The bylaws as proposed visualize this committee as one that "focuses on all aspects of the congregation's ministry, including professional leadership, music, social justice, religious education, pastoral care and so on" ... "a vision or oversight group" (as described on the UUA website).

Following review, it was decided to include provisions prohibiting committee chairs and staff members, as well as Board members, from serving on the Committee on Ministry. The secretary was directed to prepare a second draft to be sent out electronically, after which the Board may vote approval via email.

The Board plans soon to call a Special Congregational meeting: 1) to approve the new Bylaws pertaining to the Committee on Ministry; and 2) to approve a Special Resolution determining initial membership of the new Committee on Ministry and length of initial terms of service.

- Liaisons to Committees President Jim Gentile said that FUUN Committee member Karen Zindell, former Board secretary, has been invited to speak to the Board about her concerns and issues around support to committees by Board liaisons.
- Worship Coordinator Request Motion passed unanimously to approve a second collection on Sunday, September 11 to benefit the UUSC's "Water Initiative," as requested by Barbara Miller, Worship Coordinator.
- **Additional Financial Policy Issues** This agenda item was deferred until a later time.

- Judy Pereira, Secretary

The Board of Directors would like to welcome Charlie Dieterich most warmly as he prepares to make his new home among us and as he begins his new ministry within our community.



NEXT REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Jim Gentile (12), President
Debbi Dagavarian (12), Vice President
Judy Pereira (13), Secretary
Primrose Reeves (12), Treasurer
John Searight (13), Member at Large
Joe Terrazzini (12), Member at Large
Art Wexler (13), Member at Large
year given is end of term,
e.g. (12) means thru 6/30/2012

At the September 11 service, there will be a second offering for the UU Service Committee's global water initiatives (see page 6 for more info).

Checks should be made out to UUCSJS with a memo: UUSC - Water

Building Healthy Congregations A Series of Five Workshops for Teams from Congregations

October 1, November 5, December 3, 2011 January 7 & February 4, 2012

9:30am to 4:30pm

UU Fellowship at Easton 7401 Ocean Gateway Easton, MD 21601

Leader:

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, District Executive

These five workshops are designed precisely for a time of rapid change in congregations. They are based in an understanding of the congregation functioning as an emotional system of interrelated parts. It is a new way of thinking about both the congregation and its leadership. For more information visit

http://tinyurl.com/HealthyCongregations

Got Water?

Defending the human right to water

Water is essential for life. Yet, nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe water and 2.5 billion do not have adequate sanitation — more people have access to a cell phone than a toilet. The statistics are staggering. Even more surprising is how simple and cost-effective the solutions are.

According to a 2006 United Nations Development Program report entitled "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis," every \$1 spent in the clean-water and sanitation sector creates on average another \$8 in costs averted and productivity gained.

UUSC's goal is to ensure sustainable access to safe, sufficient, affordable water to every person by enshrining the human right to water into law — internationally, nationally, statewide, and locally.

"What could be more fundamental to human life than access to water? If that is not a human right, nothing is."

> UUSC President William Schulz at the Tom Lantos Commission hearing

September - Traditional start of the church year

Poet and lead singer of The Doors, Jim Morrison, wrote, "There are things known and things unknown and in between are the doors."

So as you enter our church doors this year, rejoice and immerse yourself in the people and the things that you know and love here. But also marvel and question and gain comfort and sustenance from each other in exploring and discovering those things that might be unknown to you: Your spiritual path; your role in this church; your place on this earth. We are on this journey together and these doors are always open.

-- Mark Bernstein JPG growth consultant

JPD Women & Religion invite you to take
A Taste of Cakes:
Exploring the Feminine Divine
Revisiting Cakes For The Queen Of Heaven

A special weekend for women of the JPD
September 30-October 2, 2011
Held at the Bishop Claggett Center,
Buckeystown, MD
Friday Dinner through Sunday Lunch
Total Cost: \$204
\$50 Discount for Commuters

Women 16 and older welcome 10% Discount for those Under 25

At Murray Grove – Coffeehouse Wednesdays:

Wednesday, September 21 Anthony John Clarke Irish Singer/Songwriter

www.anthonyjohnclarke.com

Children's Religious Education

Fall Preview

Our Religious Education school year begins on September 18. Below are our class descriptions and age groupings for the upcoming school year.

Pre-K thru 1st Grades: SpiritPlay

SpiritPlay is a storytelling religious education program. During each class, the storyteller relates a story while presenting visual cues (small objects, pictures) to the children as a way to help the children remember the story.

2nd-4th Grades: Spirit of Adventure

Not the traditional Sunday School class, Spirit of Adventure includes activities like dissecting a computer, building cantilevered architecture using graham crackers, interviewing a sports coach, eating smoked oysters, and singing Jingle Bells in "dog" language – all while exploring the lives and values of influential Unitarian Universalists.

5th-7th Grades: Traditions with a Wink

This curriculum teaches an understanding of UU faith that can replace the vague "We can believe anything we want to" statement with: "We come from a long tradition of questioning and searching. We come from a long tradition of loving kindness and good works." We have powerful stories and visions of hope." The UU traditions taught in this curriculum include: the way we create services of celebration and memory, the place of Science and Reason, the different ways UUs create community, our tradition of good works, our music and hymns, our Purposes and Principles, and our roots in Judeo-Christian culture.

8th-10th Grades: Coming of Age

As youth prepare to leave childhood, Unitarian Universalists congregations honor this transition with a Coming of Age ceremony. The Coming of Age class will explore theology, spirituality and history through discussion, drama, music, writing and art. Youth are encouraged to define their beliefs and put their faith into action. This course includes workshops for youth, social action projects and culminates in the spring with a rite of passage service.

Grades 4-6:- Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives is a sexuality education curriculum that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture.*** The classes are scheduled for Wednesday evenings beginning in September 2011. ***Children's participation in the OWL program requires a mandatory parent orientation and family commitment as well as attendance to all classes.

Looking forward to another great year of RE with our children, families and members!

-- Heidi Jannsch, Director of Religious Education

Adult Religious Education

Adult R.E. is pleased to offer the following 3 week course facilitated by Jim Woodcock entitled "Living an Authentic Life. Suggestions from Humanistic-Existential Psychology (and Zen)."

The following is a description of the course.

What are we seeking in the way we live our lives? Maybe you would answer that we are looking for happiness, or love, or success. But some would say that most of all we want our lives to be meaningful. We want to have the sense that we matter, that we have some value. Yet if this quest for significance is so important, why do many of us often feel unfulfilled? The answer might be found in how we relate to other people and to our culture in general. And the answer might also be found in our own life choices. If we have come this far and still sense that we are not yet all that we could be, perhaps it is still possible to redefine who we are so that we can at last begin to live an authentic life.

Humanistic-Existential Psychology is the primary branch of psychology which has focused on these questions. In our three meetings we will consider how this perspective might be applied in our own lives. As we go on this exploration, we will also see how ideas from psychology blend with insights from the Zen tradition.

Meetings will be 7 to 8 pm, on Tues. Oct. 11, 18, and 25.

Although there will be a week-to-week carryover of topics, each meeting will have its own content and can be attended independently of the others.

Backyard Habitat Enthusiasts!

Barbara Fiedler and Jesse Connor are in the planning stages of a Wildlife Habitat Tour sponsored by Go Green Galloway and scheduled for July 1, 2012.

They are seeking homeowners who are creating sustainable backyard habitats that benefit wildlife and the environment and feature native plants. If you have such a property or are in the process of creating one, you might be interested in showcasing your efforts. For further information, contact Barbara or Jesse.

Who is Charlie Dieterich?

Our new pastor is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, having grown up near Boston, Massachusetts. He received a Masters Degree from MIT and spent many years here in New Jersey, developing consumer electronics for RCA.

In 2005 he left engineering to study theology at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. He then spent two years in New Orleans, in preaching and chaplaincy internships.

Charlie comes to UUCSJS with a strong commitment to honoring diversity and celebrating connection.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

Pastor Charlie Dieterich

Music Director & Sunday Service Coordinator

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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September 2011

