



# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 04

April 2012

## April Services "Changes"

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.

<p><b>April 1</b></p>	<p><b>Practically Speaking</b> <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich and Michelle Tomko</i> This is both April Fools Day and Palm Sunday, the day Jesus and his friends entered into Jerusalem. Adults and children are invited to bring a toga... or a beach towel... this morning and take part in our "Instant Theater" lesson about Welcoming from one Unitarian perspective.</p>
<p><b>April 8</b></p>	<p><b>A Stranger In Egypt</b> <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> "You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the soul of the stranger, having been strangers in the land of Egypt." Exodus 23:9.</p>
<p><b>April 15</b></p>	<p><b>Honoring Our Ancestors</b> <i>Guest speaker Donna Renfro</i> How do our ancestors affect us, in their living and their dying, in their music, in dance, and in their legacies? We will spiritually reflect on the question of how we honor those who have preceded us, and how we can live now to become honored ancestors.</p>
<p><b>April 22</b></p>	<p><b>Baseball As Religion</b> <i>Lay speakers Debbi Dagavarian, Steve Fiedler, and Jack Miller</i> Like any other religion, baseball is rich in tradition, ritual, superstition, myth, memories, and the sacred. We offer this service to honor this rite of spring.</p>
<p><b>April 29 5th Sunday Shared Meal (Potluck)</b></p>	<p><b>When Logic Fails</b> <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> Paradoxically, mathematicians can prove that there are some things which mathematicians cannot prove. Do we know what we know we can't know? Make a casserole and come to the shared meal that follows... we know that will be good.</p>

APRIL 15  
AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE  
**POMONA ROAD CLEANUP**  
SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED

*Opportunity knocks! Please open the door.*

**Experience being a UU in a larger context, and bring the fire of commitment back to us.**

### **The Joseph Priestly District Assembly**

April 13-15, 2012

Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, Va.

Looking Backward, Moving Forward,  
Celebrating 50 years of JPD

For details and a printable brochure, go to [jpd.uua.org](http://jpd.uua.org).

### **The Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (aka "G.A.")**

June 20 – 24, in Phoenix, Arizona

This GA was planned for Phoenix prior to the enactment of the harsh Arizona immigration laws. A decision was made to keep the GA there, and to focus on the justice work that needs to be done regarding immigration. More information can be found at <http://uua.org/ga>. There you can view an invitation from Rev. Peter Morales, current UUA president.

Because our denomination runs as a democracy, the General Assembly is the time when delegates from each member congregation come together to discuss and vote on the issues that are before us. We always want to have delegates who can represent us, and bring the recommended actions back to our congregation. Thankfully it seems that we have two of our three allotted delegates. But, you do not need to be a delegate to attend the plenary sessions where the discussion of important issues takes place. You just can't hold up a card to vote.

At either of these two conferences, you can expect

- Programs that will stir your spiritual core
- Widening of your knowledge and perspective of UU, national, and world issues
- Workshops that focus on the "how to" of various aspects of congregational life
- The UUA bookstore and other vendors will display and sell their books, jewelry, and other UU goodies.
- Meeting and sharing experiences with other fabulous UUs.
- Excellent childcare, children's and teen programs
- Our UUCSJS will benefit from all the ideas and enthusiasm that you bring back to us.

### **Leading Change in Changing Times**

July 15 - 21, 2012

DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania!

Leadership School comes to UUMAC! This interactive and entertaining workshop is designed for leaders (and potential leaders) who want to guide their congregations toward transformative change. You'll learn about leadership styles and discover your own; gain a better understanding of change and how to embrace it; learn to turn conflict into opportunity; and discover ways of creating a healthier and more inclusive congregation. Youth and Young Adults are encouraged to join us in what promises to be an exciting and dynamic week.

Note: This is a shortened form of the UU Leadership Team Institute (UULTI) and so will run longer than other workshops, from 9:45am – noon, during both Theme Talk and Workshop times. With Patricia Infante and Mark Bernstein.

#### **UUCSJS ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PLANT SALE**

**4th Annual UUCSJS Native Plant Swap & Sale  
Saturday, May 12**

*Reminder:* If you are interested in participating in the swap, you'll want to begin dividing and potting up some of your extra native plants NOW so they are in good shape for May 12.

**3rd Annual Heirloom Vegetable Sale  
Saturday, May 12**

**Native Nursery-Grown Plant Fund Raiser  
(Advance Order)**

**Deadline for orders: April 1  
pickup on May 11 or May 12**

For an online order form, sale details, & other info on growing natives go to: [www.uucsjs.org/social\\_action.html](http://www.uucsjs.org/social_action.html)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Please sign up at the Social Justice table to help with our Native Plant Sale & Swap, Heirloom Veggie Sale, and our Native Nursery-Grown Advance Sale. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Jesse Connor.

**Do you grow your own food?**  
Well if you don't, you have to visit the grocery store.



**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!

## *Pastor's Page*

The other day I went down to my mail box here in Ocean City to check for mail. I almost never get mail, and today was one of those few exceptions: I had an Atlantic City Electric bill. But as I was coming back I met my landlady, coming the other way. "Good morning Reverend!" she said, bowing slightly. I paused, but only for an instant and then said, "Good morning! A beautiful day today, isn't it?"

During that moment's delay my brain followed several scenarios. I could have said "Well, technically I'm not a Reverend, because I am still in the process of obtaining preliminary fellowship from the Unitarian Universalist Association." Or I could have said: "The title of Reverend is reserved for those called to the ministry by a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association." And indeed, combining both of those statements would be the most accurate, though it would have opened up further questions concerning polity and governance.

And my sense was that what she wanted was a smile and a friendly acknowledgement of our connection, not a lecture on process. And maybe she just wanted to get her mail.

Late in March, Prim Reeves and I made a quick trip to Washington DC, to the ordination of Rob Keithan. I am a member of a group of Unitarian Universalist ministers who meet monthly, and Rob is too. He works half time in Philadelphia and half time in Washington, DC where he does advocacy work and teaches trapeze.

While he is from Harrisburg, PA, and his parents are still members of the Harrisburg church, it was the congregation of All Souls Church, DC who ordained him. Now the act of ordination is simple. According to the Cambridge Platform, a congregation elects a minister, then confers the office by laying on of hands. It is as simple as, say, a new President taking the oath of office. Some of us remember the photograph of Lyndon Johnson taking the oath on an airplane, but it is usually done with great ceremony and pomp, with special seating arrangements and formal attire.

Rob's ordination was sort of like that. In addition to the sermon and the charge to the minister, there was a procession of circus performers, jugglers and acrobats. There were Cirque du Soleil-like gymnastics featuring Rob's wife, and a moment when the entire congregation put on clown noses.

What a way to celebrate change!

It made me re-think the whole ordination process... was it about an individual or about community? Is how the change happens more important than that something changed? What will people remember?

Changes are not always so joyous. Sometimes, like Johnson's inauguration after Kennedy's assassination, change happens with little preparation. The "Flight from Egypt" is a good example of this... the Israelites did not even have time to let their bread rise. A more shocking example is the change of fortune from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. The story is that Jesus is warmly welcomed one day, and put to death five days later.

Both of these stories hold deep truths for religious communities. They are part of the founding mythology -- historical and lyrical -- for the people, a touchstone of truth. This month I'll explore both of these events, and also consider how shared experience changes a group's understanding of the world. At the end of the month I will return to the issue of knowing (and not knowing) by recalling one of my father's favorite stories.

Pastor (not Rev.) Charlie

**Pastor Charlie has regular office hours  
from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays  
at the UU Center.**

Feel free to call the office for a half hour appointment (he has his own mailbox on the answering machine), or send him a note at [minister@uucsjs.org](mailto:minister@uucsjs.org).

Why winter? Because the growing season requires the fallow season.

Because without gray there is no joy in color.  
Because it is loss that makes us appreciate love.  
Because it is death that makes us value life.

The wheel of the seasons turns. Life cycles into death, which cycles into life.

Let us bless the journey.

From *uuworld*: [www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/103929.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/103929.shtml)

## UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, April 5, 1 pm

The Margaret Fuller Circle Meeting will be on Thursday, April 5, at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. We will begin by sharing personal events in our lives from the past month followed by refreshments provided this month by Kathie Benner.

Our program by Prim Reeves should provoke thoughtful and intense insight into the "Doctrine of Christian Discovery". Indigenous peoples and nations want religious movements to repudiate this Doctrine and to pressure our government to implement the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees is urging a repudiation of the "Doctrine of Discovery" and will place a resolution on the 2012 General Assembly agenda.

Some questions to consider are: What is the "Doctrine of Christian Discovery?" How has it affected our lives and the lives of so many others? Why should we be aware of it? What can we do about it?

Prim has prepared handouts for better explanation and understanding. You are welcome to join with us in a lively discussion. --Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader

When you get a chance, stop by the Library and take note of the new carpet the Margaret Circle members have purchased to add to the decor of the room!

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

*"You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always." Ann McCracken, Cincinnati.*

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the sixth season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

**We offer two choices:** Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

*"In vino, veritas."*

*-- Pliny the Elder (and presumably not a teetotaler)*

## Look Around. What do you see? Opportunities

We are more likely to notice things that directly concern us than things that do not directly concern us. For example, how many people at UUCSJS have noticed the new cabinets in our lobby, especially the gorgeous new corner cabinet that was made by Steve Fiedler to match the lobby's existing woodwork? How many people have noticed that 4,500 pounds of materials left from the building of our Center have been removed from under our back deck? How about the mowing of the retention basin by Louis Geiger that carefully left some natural habitat for our RE classes to explore? How about the path behind our deck that was bush-hogged by Al Polk and Richard Grzywinski? The tile work in the kitchen that TJ Jansch completed? Improvement to the downstairs bathroom completed by Jeff Taylor? Improvements to Charlies' office? So on and so on...

It may be that these works are invisible to some because they are not involved in the work to maintain and improve our Center.

Take a moment and recapture the satisfaction you felt upon the completion of a task you volunteered for. A very nice feeling, isn't it? Is it time to create some new satisfying memories?

The Building and Grounds Committee is currently organizing crews to help with summer maintenance of our grounds. People will be needed to mow, weed, mulch, drink soda and eat donuts. and other tasks. Please be willing to help. It could prove to be a real eye opener. -- Jack Miller

*It is not too late to participate in an auction event*

## Pogtry Workshop

Led by Penny Harter,  
our member and a published author.

Featured will be free verse, haiku, haibun

April 14, 2012, 10 am – 12 at the UU Center.

Cost, \$30 per person

Visit the sign up table in the sanctuary, add your name to the list, and your money in an envelope, or contact Betsy Searight, if you would like to come.



## The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

This month SJAA will be collecting for LICK (Life Improvement for Cats & Kittens). They are a non-profit, no-kill, all-volunteer rescue and adoption organization for cats founded in 1996. They maintain a heated barn with a large fenced yard for feral cats and cats awaiting adoption. They also supply as many foster families as possible. Cages at the facility are for sick and injured animals, or cats transitioning into the barn environment. They also have an extensive trap-neuter-return program for feral colonies with caregivers. They provide a loving environment until adoptive homes are found and veterinary care. LICK requires common cat supplies as well as a need for foster homes and volunteers.

Spring has sprung and this is a critical time for those in the field handling the cat over-population problem. If you can provide a home for an unwanted feline, now is the time that your effort would have the most impact on area shelters. Kittens need interaction with other kittens for healthy social development. So getting two is better than one. Go for it!

SJAA will again protest the upcoming Atlantic City Rodeo at Boardwalk Hall March 30th-April 1st. The goal is to speak out against animal cruelty inherent in rodeo acts, and hopefully dissuade the public from attending and supporting them. Please join us for the sake of those cruelly-treated calves, horses and bulls and to stop the psychology of cruelty that this event propagates. For more information contact Cynthia Grzywinski, Richard Grzywinski, Ronda Cluff, or Michelle Tomko.

And please stay tuned for our planned protest of the Ringling Brothers Circus, aka "The Cruellest Show on Earth", coming to Boardwalk Hall April 19 - 22. See more at [motherjones.com/environment/2011/10/ringling-bros-elephant-abuse](http://motherjones.com/environment/2011/10/ringling-bros-elephant-abuse). We will be providing more information on this action in upcoming announcements.

*Wild animals never kill for sport. Man is the only one to whom the torture and death of his fellow creatures is amusing in itself.*  
-- James Anthony Froude

*The wild, cruel animal is not behind the bars of a cage. He is in front of it.* -- Axel Munthe

*Lots of people talk to animals.... Not very many listen, though.... That's the problem.* -- Benjamin Hoff, The Tao of Pooh



*We cannot change the cards we are dealt,  
just how we play the hand.* — Randy Pausch

## Book Group to Seek Sagacity in April with *The Last Lecture* by UU Randy Pausch

"One of the staples of 'the college experience' at many schools is the 'last lecture' — a beloved professor sums up a lifetime of scholarship and teaching as if he/she were heading out the door for the last time. ... the kind of tweed-jacket-with-elbow-patches talk" that normally "gives all present some warm and fuzzy feelings."<sup>1</sup> Randy Pausch's "last lecture" was a very different animal.

Delivered on September 18, 2007, Pausch's talk was taped and put up on YouTube. Jeffrey Zaslow wrote about it for *The Wall Street Journal*, and news shows named Pausch "person of the week." A book contract followed, reportedly worth some \$7 million. The result is the volume we're reading (2008), written with Zaslow and building on the original lecture, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams."

Join us on **Friday, April 20 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library** to talk about this slim, remarkable book, in which "Randy Pausch has combined the humor, inspiration, and intelligence that made his lecture such a phenomenon," we read on the back flap. Marsha Hannah will lead our discussion. Bring a light snack to share, if you wish.

The "last lecture" by Randy Pausch, professor of Computer Science, Human Computer Interaction, and Design at Carnegie Mellon University, was delivered less than a month after his pancreatic cancer returned with a dire new prognosis: 3-6 months of relative health to be followed by speedy demise.

Jesse Kornbluth interviewed Pausch for *Reader's Digest* in early 2008. He wrote, "And now we have the book. It's two books, really, because it reads one way with the author still among us and will surely read differently when "The Last Lecture" is like *The Butterfly and the Diving Bell* — the record of a dead man, talking. The first book invites your support and gives you a wake-up call. The second, I suspect, is also a wake-up call but, between the lines, reminds you that even happiness can't save you from death.

"Somewhere in between — in the quiet space where a book really lives — is a document that accomplishes a lot in 200 pages. ... I talked with the guy. And we laughed and laughed. Of all the achievements in a life that's winding down, that's got to be up there." Yes.

May's selection will be *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough (2011), "the enthralling, inspiring — and until now, untold — story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, architects, and others of high aspiration who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900 ..." *The Greater Journey* is a big book, but it's readily available in local libraries. (We are reversing selections for May and June, and will now discuss *To a Mountain in Tibet* with Penny Harter in June.)

Everyone is welcome to come to book group, no sign-up necessary. *Plan to attend as often as you can on every third Friday, September through June.* Please start thinking hard about what books you'd like to read for next year; they will be chosen in June. For more information and to get meeting reminders, contact Judy Pereira. Hope to see you April 20.

<sup>1</sup>Jesse Kornbluth, April 8, 2008 (amazon.com)

**Board of Trustees**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**March 2012**

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the UU Center Lounge.

Board members joined Heidi Jansch, Operations Manager, in expressing appreciation for the efforts of Joe and Wendy Terrazzini and their daughter, Deanna, in making the Fellowship Dinner on March 17 such a big success, aided by Paige Sturts, Geri McCluskey, and Richard & Cynthia Grzywinski, among others. Pastor Dieterich and Prim Reeves described their enjoyment in attending an ordination at All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, DC on March 18, jugglers and acrobats being part of the program.

• **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chair and Board member John Searight distributed his "UUCSJS Fund Balances 3-20-12," saying that our checking account balance is okay and savings, "stationary." He noted that from Reserve Funds, 1) \$5,000 had been used to fully discharge our in-house loans on March 1 as planned, and 2) over \$7,000 had to be transferred into the checking account during March. Therefore, our Reserve Funds were low—\$11,000—and need rebuilding. Plate collections for the month of February were okay, he said, but pledges were not coming in. This has since improved.

The annual pledge drive committee has been working intensely to put together the new "Stewardship Circles" to be held after services on March 25.

• **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Prim Reeves began by saying, "We had *such* a bad month, I went to pictures!" Along with the "Financial Report for February 2012," she supplied five bar graphs to illustrate income, expenses, and reserve funds over time. "February's weather may have been beautiful, but UUCSJS's February financials are not pretty," she wrote; total income was \$6,077 and total expenses, \$13,056. (Large payments to resupply grocery cards or Fair Trade products can distort the picture somewhat.)

So what can Board members, Program Council, staff, committee chairs, others, do to help? On the *income side*, she suggested we support, encourage, and participate in— 1) visiting First Unitarian Church of Wilmington on April 29 to receive the gift of a special collection; 2) paying of pledges; 3) buying grocery cards every week; and 4) the Native Plant Swap & Sale—preordering by April 1, offering to help, and buying plants on Sat., May 12. On the *expenses side*: be conservative, spend wisely!

"Net Income by Month" shows *income has lagged every February for the last five fiscal years* (although not as severely as this year). The treasurer is also concerned that in FY 2011-12 "net income monthly" has dipped below the break-even line *three times* thus far. What happens when we don't make it? Well, to back up our operating budget we have Reserve Funds, and as we have seen, they are low and need to be built up.

The UUA recommends that reserves equal six months of operating costs. For next year's budget of \$201,000, this would be \$100,500. Clearly it will take time for us to get there.

Finance chair Searight observed that having no legacy or endowment funds is a weakness he plans to help remedy soon by making Planned Giving materials available to UUCSJS members and friends. To date we have gratefully received several bequests, but want to be fully supporting Planned Giving in advance of one of this fall's themes-of-the-month: "Mortality"!

Noting experts tell us to expect about a 10% shortfall in pledged income, Reeves and Searight said we should have 75% of this year's pledges by the end of March; as of now we have about 68%. They expect less than a 10% shortfall in the end.

• **Minister's Report**

Pastor Dieterich said he would pick up where his written monthly report to the Board left off . . .

– **Bridge of Faith.** He visited the group in Margate by invitation on March 13 to "explain UU-ism"; about 20 people were present, including Victor Maene.

– **Interweave** has been struggling and needs help, he said. He envisions an LGBT ministry retreat on a Saturday, say, to set new goals and to revitalize.

– **Newcomer's Brunch.** The new member class on March 11 was a success, and eight new members signed the book on March 18. Iris Weingarten, who was ill, plans to do so before services on March 25. He said he wants to arrange an evening class before the end of April, offering another chance for membership in time to vote at the Annual Meeting on June 3.

Finishing his report, Pastor Charlie earnestly told the Board that he would "really like us to figure out how to do public relations."

• **Miscellaneous Matters**

– **Heidi's report to the Board.** In preparation for her leaving the post of Operations Manager in order to devote full attention to being Director of Religious Education and studying to earn UUA Credentialing, Heidi Jansch presented a comprehensive description of what she now does, and also drafted a list of responsibilities for a prospective new administrative staff member. This is expected to occur before the start of the next fiscal year.

– **Leadership Development.** Vice President Dagavarian brought this matter before the Board by way of Program Council, which she chairs. There, it was broached by Karen York, who has attended UUA leadership training and is among those seriously interested in finding good ways to develop new leaders within the congregation. With limited resources to send people off to workshops or conferences, however, it was suggested we also consider what we can do right *here* at UUCSJS.

Pastor Dieterich suggested we get details on summer programs by "UULTI" (UU Leadership Training Institute) and the like, putting it out as to what it is, how it works, etc., to discover who's interested. Also, the importance of bringing people along in committees by means of vice chairmanships, etc., was stressed; Program Council has tried to implement this, Dagavarian said.

Prim Reeves reminded everyone that under the bylaws, committee chairs are term-limited and may serve only three years. The voice of your President: "Our bylaws are good, but they're bylaws." The session ended (for the time being) with Pastor Dieterich's saying, what matters is "understanding how we want things to run."

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM, reconvening immediately in Executive Session for another hour.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of  
the Board of Trustees will be held on  
**Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6:30 pm**  
at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

**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

"Congregations cannot be the only way we connect with people,"  
so says UUA President Peter Morales

Whom does your Unitarian Universalist congregation serve? Is it focused only on those who "sign the book" and become members? Or does your congregation also serve other people who might have less obvious connections to the congregation? Is your congregation engaging with people who share your values, or do you wait for them to come to you?

These questions and others are being asked in conversations among Unitarian Universalist leaders this winter and spring about how to broaden Unitarian Universalism's reach.

The conversations started at a Unitarian Universalist Association staff leadership retreat in September 2011. In January, the Rev. Peter Morales, UUA president, moved the conversation along by publishing "Congregations and Beyond," a proposal for the UUA's future he had shared with senior staff. In it, Morales observed that many more people identify as UUs than are members of the UUA's congregations and that Americans are increasingly choosing not to affiliate with religious institutions.

"I am realizing in a profound way that congregations cannot be the only way we connect with people," Morales wrote. "We have long defined ourselves as an **association of congregations**. We need to think of ourselves as a **religious movement**. The difference is potentially huge."

Among Morales's observations:

- The number of people who identify as UUs is about four times the membership of our congregations.
- There has been dramatic growth in the number of ministers taking up community ministries rather than parish ministries.
- Many young adults raised in UU congregations continue to identify as Unitarian Universalists, although they often do not join congregations.
- UUs gather in other contexts besides congregations. The annual Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI), for example, draws about 1,000 people, many of whom do not belong to a congregation.

The bottom line is that a number of congregations are connecting with people in unconventional ways and that it's time to encourage more of this.

The question for UUA staff is, "How can we support congregations so that they can make these new connections? Congregations have been and will continue to be the major source of religious community. But increasingly it won't be the only one."

From *uuworld*, [www.uuworld.org/news/articles/198078.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/198078.shtml)



### *Why Standing On the Side of Love?*

This is a time of great hope and possibility, yet our communities are threatened by the increased prevalence of acts motivated by fear and hate.

No one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities.

In public debates over immigration, LGBT rights, and more, religious people stand on the side of love and call for respect, inclusion, and compassion.

#### *The mission:*

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Everyone deserves respect and love for who they are.

Right now, both love and fear are rising up in our nation. We stand on the side of love. We harness love's power to stop oppression, exclusion, and violence against people who are targeted because of their identity.

We are working to build a society where the color of our skin, the conditions of our birth, who we love, how we worship, and how we express our gender do not determine our worth, rights, and opportunities.

Our elected leaders have a responsibility to unify and advance our communities, not engage in scapegoating or divide neighbor from neighbor.

We are all created in God's image. People of every faith honor God by honoring the diversity of God's creation.

We believe that the essence of the individual is not based upon outward appearances. No one should be judged based on the size, shape, or functionality of their body. We celebrate the diversity of creation, including intersex bodies and transgender identities, and the gifts of differently-abled people of all shapes and sizes.

From [www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org)

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Pastor Charlie Dieterich

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**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**April 2012**

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
P.O. Box 853  
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