



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South
Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 06

June 2012

June Services “Celebration”

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>June 3 Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service</p>	<p>John Muir <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> The subject for today's sermon is the late-19th century explorer and naturalist and preservation advocate John Muir. The topic was suggested by Bud Smith as the high bidder in this year's "Sermon Title Auction." The service will reflect on how we are driven to acts of kindness based on our own life experiences.</p>
<p>June 10</p>	<p>Lost in the Unitarian Jungle <i>Lay speakers Melissa Hutchison and RE students</i> Ever feel lost when you come to church? Today we explore the feelings of our children (and those who still may feel like a lost child at times), how we learn to find our way, and the people who help make us feel at home. It is led by the RE COA/Teen group, and includes a RE Teachers recognition.</p>
<p>June 17</p>	<p>In an Infinite and Timeless Universe, Do WE Really Matter? <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i> Our UU faith is very much a product of the power of human reason and the revelations of science. But science is now uncovering a universe infinitely larger and far more complex than our predecessors could have ever imagined. Will you conclude that our place in the universe grows correspondingly smaller and of lesser consequence? How will this affect your beliefs and, most importantly, your view of the significance of human life? “Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?” ... <i>Painting by Paul Gauguin, Post-Impressionist, 1897.</i></p>
<p>June 24</p>	<p>Solstice With Seuss: We Are The Lorax and We Dance With The Trees <i>Lay speakers Colleen and Ian Johnston</i> Around the time of the solstice, our thoughts turn to the earth and our connection with it.</p>

UUCSJS
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2012 11:15 AM

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
APPROVAL OF 2012-13 BUDGET
BY-LAWS CHANGES
VOTE TO ORDAIN PASTOR CHARLIE

This summer, you'll frequently see our Guest Pianist....

A native of Cape May County, **Stephanie Cawley** took piano lessons from Barbara Miller until she was a teenager. After graduating with a B.A. in Literature from Stockton last spring, she moved to Philadelphia where she reads and writes a lot, works as an SAT tutor, and leads poetry workshops for middle schoolers at Mighty Writers. Her cat's name is Vincent van Gogh.

Don't Miss Out on Murray Grove

You still have time to sign up for our annual Murray Grove activities. You can stay overnight one or both nights or you can just pop in for a few hours -- on Friday night for the cookout/campfire singalong, or Saturday for the fun and games, pool time, or nature walk. It's super easy to get to (Exit 74 off the Garden State Parkway) and you can show up anytime. Sign up before it's too late!

Look for the signup sheet at the rear of the sanctuary, or talk to Karen York or Heidi Jansch.

Other Happenings at Murray Grove:

Drum and Dance Fest - July 6-8, 2012.

Express yourself creatively and spiritually! All levels welcome! LEARN Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, African Belly and Hoop Dancing, plus Drum/Dance Jams, Facilitator Performances. Drum around our fire circle. Come for the whole weekend, or day-pass.

Camping in the Grove! - August 12-16, 2012:

5 days of fun-filled summer adventure for children in 3rd through 6th grade. If you love games, art, swimming, music, nature and bonfires, our camping experience, where Universalism traditionally began, is just for you! Visit murraygrove.org for details.

Summer is here!

**Try some new items on your grill:
fish instead of burgers; veggies like corn,
zucchini, peppers, portabella mushrooms.
Get creative!**

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!

Summer Worship Services at UUCSJS

– Worship Coordinator, Barbara Miller

Did you know that some Unitarian Universalist congregations suspend Sunday services in the summer? Many others do not offer Religious Education in the summer.

But that is not the way we roll!

At UUCSJS, we have always been a year-round congregation. We most definitely “do church” in the summer months.

That said, you will see some changes this summer. Pastor Charlie will be taking some time away, and for the first time, I will be taking a leave from some of my duties. Many of you heard that Jack and I will become grandparents in June. I am clearing my schedule in order to be available to my son and daughter-in-law (*and granddaughter!*) during June.

Then in July, I will be taking 2 weeks of study leave to pursue the Music Leadership Credentialing Program and to attend the UU Musicians Network Conference in Tulsa.

Time away from my UUCSJS gig will give me the freedom to attend services at other UU congregations. Experiencing worship as a participant is quite different from leading worship, and I come away refreshed and enlightened by the experience.

I will still have a hand in planning services and will also be popping in some Sunday mornings to provide the music. Even when you don't see me, please be assured that I will return, and that I will miss seeing you all and especially singing with you all on Sunday mornings.

Michelle Tomko will be coordinating Sunday Services during June and July. She and the Sunday Services Committee have some wonderful services planned for the summer.

If you would like to be part of the team, please let Michelle Tomko know. There are opportunities for music, readers, and especially the Chalice Table.

I hope to find a large and vocal group welcoming me back in August. I have an idea for a service called “Congregation as Choir....”

If you look deeply into the palm of your hand, you will see your parents and all generations of your ancestors. All of them are alive in this moment. Each is present in your body. You are the continuation of each of these people. -- Thich Nhat Hanh

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them. -- Desmond Tutu

Family life is a bit like a runny peach pie - not perfect but who's complaining? -- Robert Brault

Pastor's Page

The month of June is special for Unitarian Universalists. For Universalists, there would be "state conventions" and then the "General Convention"-- gatherings of ministers and church leaders in some city for theological discussion and passing of resolutions. For Unitarians, two traditions, the National Convention and the Association's general meeting combined over the decades to become "May Meetings" eventually moving to June. In 1961 the combined denomination instituted "General Assembly" or "GA." This is a gathering for the thousand congregations across North America, held in some city with a large convention hall. About a decade ago, the Canadian Unitarian Council separated to hold its own convention independent of GA.

Over the years, GA has been educational and been contentious. The President and the Moderator are elected there, and the direction for new programs often comes from decisions made in the "plenary sessions," when delegates from all congregations come together.

But the first thing in each General Assembly is a rather long worship service, one which includes a celebration of the gathering of congregations called "The Banner Parade." I don't know its history or if it came from one or the other tradition, but I do know that it is a wonderful celebration.

At the front of our sanctuary, over by the collection baskets, is our current banner. It has our congregation's name on it and a series of hieroglyphics which quickly tell others where we come from and who we are. Other UU congregations have banners with similar words and images too. Some are on satin with embroidered letters, many are made by the congregation's quilting group and explode in a rainbow of colors and textures. A few are photo-printed with the image of the church building and congregation name, and a few are embodied simplicity, with a single sewn on symbol.

As part of the opening GA service, representatives of the congregations march in with their banner almost conga line style. The host city's congregations always lead, and next year's city is always last, but in between is a complete hodgepodge of banners... Amarillo, Texas followed by Laconia, New Hampshire, followed by Pasadena, California... each banner representing the values and programs that congregation celebrates.

I actually had the job of carrying the banner for UU Washington Crossing one year, and the affirming feedback from the crowd was amazing. By then the thousands of delegates had cheered on perhaps two hundred other

banners, but they still had the enthusiasm to say "Go New Jersey" as I marched past.

June holds many celebrations within its thirty days. High School, Eighth Grade and Preschool graduations are occasions for family to gather and share in the moment. Most colleges are out by now... but a few still hold to the June tradition. These celebrations are so stylized, they can feel like they are serving expectations rather than participants. I remember one June wedding where my friends decided they wanted to square dance, and so the reception was a square dance lesson (with vegetarian buffet). Reclaim celebration! Make it your own!

Indeed, the best celebrations are those unscripted ones. The spontaneous barbecue for a friend back in town, singing around a campfire, congratulating a relative on their new job or cheering them up on the ending of an old job... or relationship.

In our services this month we'll talk about John Muir, a naturalist whose writings and lobbying earned him the title "Father of the National Parks," a success story of national proportions. We will also celebrate our own success stories as the Coming of Age class puts on a service about self-discovery. Our place in the Universe seems like a big topic, but Richard Gryzwiniski will bring it down to size on the seventeenth. For the start of summer, Colleen and Ian Johnston will return us to an environmental theme with a sermon about the Lorax.

May we gather in community this month to share our triumphs, give encouragement and provide comfort. As George Odell wrote: "All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us."

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.

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship

For times when you can't get to church, now church will come to you – weekly online worship.

www.questformeaning.org -

Click on **Reflecting**. Click again on **Worship**

- Sundays at 7 pm (EST)
- Mondays at 1:30 pm (EST)



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

The members of SJAA are really excited this month after founder and president Cynthia Gryzwinski took the committee's pulse in our annual board report. Our "rookie" year included many accomplishments both politically and charitably.

We were instrumental in a letter writing campaign against the rebirth of the diving horse act in Atlantic City. We delivered stockings full of toys and stuffed animals to the Humane Society of Atlantic County at Christmas. We successfully protested the circus and rodeo at Boardwalk Hall. We gained visibility and grew our contact list at fairs in Smithville and at Stockton College. Our weekly Sunday collections were always well received at area shelters. Ronda Cluff consistently garnered free press for us and the UU Center throughout the year. We have established an electronic media presence. One of our members received a great birthday gift - a donation to SJAA (*hint hint*.) And the Grzywinskis even managed to slip UU auction attendees eggless "egg" salad "tofufish" sandwiches at the beer tasting. You can't call us one-trick ponies!

What can you do? We love a challenge. What are your ideas for the coming year? Feel free to sit in on a meeting every fourth Sunday after coffee hour or speak to a member anytime. We would love to hear it. Also, every year dogs die each year because they are left in hot cars. Be on the look out as the weather gets warmer for this senseless abuse in parking lots in your town. *If you see something, say something!* The police or animal control will respond to calls about this if reported. Go to <http://www.mydogiscool.com> to learn more about this and for **printable flyers** to leave on offending cars. And of course it goes without saying, leave your pets at home in the air conditioning like the spoiled little cuties they are.

In June, we are collecting for HSAC. Established in 1968, the Humane Society of Atlantic County's mission is to curb pet over population through clinics and spay and neuter programs, increase the number of animals adopted into loving homes, provide a safe and caring environment for animals that are lost or strayed, and to serve as a resource for humane animal education within our community.

The Humane Society of Atlantic County is a private, non-profit organization that relies on donations from generous supporters. They are not operated or funded by any national humane groups or governmental agencies and must rely on contributions to bring our services to the community. To see how you can support the Humane Society of Atlantic County, head over to <http://www.hsacpet.com> for more information. But specifically for the collection they need: pens & Sharpies, paper towels, clipboards, blankets, notebook binders, hand sanitizer & sanitizer wipes, canned cat & dog food, laundry detergent, Dawn dish soap (Original), fabric softener, bleach, 409 Cleaner, Clorox cleaner and copy paper. Thanks for your continued support!

"A house without either a cat or a dog is the house of a scoundrel." - Portuguese Proverb

"Truly, a special book that transcends the genre of travel writing."
— R. M. Peterson

Book Group Transports To a Mountain in Tibet in June to Cap Off the Season

Kailash is a sacred, snow-capped mountain in the Himalayas in a remote area of western Tibet. Colin Thubron, award-winning British travel writer and novelist (*Shadow of the Silk Road*, 2007) traveled along the Karnali River (a tributary of the Ganges) by foot with only a guide, a cook, and a horse man, on a long and often treacherous trek to visit the mystical peak.

On Friday, June 15 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library, join other book lovers to contemplate *To a Mountain in Tibet*, Thubron's "engrossing and gorgeously written"¹ book that is said to transcend its genre. Interlaced throughout the narrative are reports and reflections on the region's religions and ways of life and thought. Penny Harter will lead our discussion.

"Much more than a travel guide or history lesson, the book is also a stirring memoir tinged with the author's own grief, reflecting on the joys and losses he's experienced"² and accentuated by the recent death of his mother, leaving him the last survivor of his family. Again and again on the trip, he is haunted by memories of his father, his mother, and his sister (who, ironically, died in an avalanche in the Alps). "Those memories do not overwhelm the book, but they do give it a poignant, personal dimension which, when added to the travel adventure, the history, and the religious ethnology make *To a Mountain in Tibet* a special book."³



Mt. Kailash is a holy mountain sacred to Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and the shamanic religion of Bon-po. It stands by itself, in splendid isolation and over 22,000 feet high, next to Lake Manasarovar (equally holy and where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were scattered). It has never been climbed — due in part to technical difficulties but more to its remoteness and the reverence with



which it is held by those who live in the area. But a circumnavigation of the mountain is for many Hindus, Buddhists, and Tibetans what a pilgrimage to Mecca is for Muslims, or to Jerusalem for Jews.

Also at the June meeting we will select 10 new books for the 2012-13 year. A list will be compiled ahead of time; please send your suggestions to Judy Pereira. This exciting process — choosing new books! — is accomplished before our summer break in July and August. *The first new book will be read for September 21; what will it be?*

Everyone is invited to join the book lovers' group; no advance sign-up is needed. Plan to attend as often as you are able on the third Friday evening of the month, September through June. For more information or to receive email reminders, see Judy Pereira. We sincerely hope you can join us on Friday, June 15. *Bring a light snack to share, if you wish.*

^{1,2,3}R. M. Peterson, Amazon Vine™ review (2011)

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
May 2012

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge, President Jim Gentile presiding. The meeting opened with impromptu chalice lighting words from Pastor Charlie and sharing of joys and concerns.

Operations Manager Heidi Jannsch, Congregation member Lauren Porr, and Steve Hall were also attending.

• **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chair and Board member John Searight is on vacation in Alaska, and there is no report this month.

• **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Primrose Reeves presented her "Financial Report for April 2012," saying it had been "an all-around good month." Total Income (Line 17) was \$5,300 *over budget*, almost half from pledges, probably due to notices sent out in March by our bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett. Year-to-date, total income is \$1,225 over budget. On the other side, Total Expenses (Line 99) were \$2,000 *under budget* for April and year-to-date, \$4,000 under budget.

"It's good to have a plan work out!" Reeves said, thanking all those who made this happen. However, she urged committees to be frugal as the fiscal year ends, since anything left over benefits our Reserve Fund, which is low at about \$11,000 in mid-May (according to Finance Chair Searight, on 5/14/12).

Two matters requiring Board action passed unanimously: 1) Pastor Charlie's housing allowance was increased due to his move from Ocean City to Smithville this month, offset by reducing his salary by an equal amount; and 2) Congregation member Michelle Tomko was hired as a temporary UUCSJS employee to be Acting Sunday Services Coordinator, substituting for Worship Coordinator Barbara Miller during the weeks of Miller's leave and vacation in June, July and early August.

• **Minister's Report**

Augmenting his monthly Board report, Pastor Dieterich said discussions had started on the autumn program and especially on October's theme -- Death-- and how to make it an uplifting experience. For example, if finished, our Memorial Garden could be dedicated.

Pastor Charlie said his proposed Saturday field trip to the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey in Newtonville (closed Sundays), had no one responding. He asked, "Are structures in place for this and other like things?" President Gentile's answer, "Ours may be worn out."

It was noted there are now quite a few people at UUCSJS who were not here when the UU Center was being built. That huge community task having been completed, it may be time for the Board and the congregation as a whole to exercise our collective imagination and revitalize our systems. Congregation-wide visioning sessions facilitated by the Rev. Libby Smith were held before we had our own minister in place to aid with follow-up. (In fact, their purpose was in large part to prepare for the time when we would be welcoming a new minister.)

The Board heard next from the chair of the new Ordination committee, Prim Reeves. Meeting since early April, a theme has emerged: "The (*Fairly*) Long and (*Relatively*) Winding Road" (as in, Pastor Charlie's circuitous route from Massachusetts, to New Jersey, to Berkeley, to New Orleans, to South Jersey and UUCSJS). Both Charlie and committee members view the ordination as a chance for the entire congregation to get in on the act, in one way or another.

Ordination expenses were not included in the budget for FY 2012-13 and therefore need to be raised. Budget and financial matters will be handled by Jeff Taylor with Kathleen Hartnett.

• **Miscellaneous Items**

– **New CPU for "UU Central"**: The Board authorized up to \$1,000 for purchasing computer essentials for the UU Center offices, components to be located and selected by Pastor Dieterich and Administrator Heidi Jannsch. Also, the office printer has been malfunctioning and Lauren Porr said she has a printer to donate; thanks, Lauren.

– **Annual Report**: The secretary said reports are duly coming in, and will be assembled and ready to distribute to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 3, *thanks to many*.

– **UUMN Scholarship to Barbara Miller**: The UU Musicians Network has awarded Music Director Barbara Miller a scholarship for \$750 toward UUA Credentialing and the UUMN conference from July 18-22 in Tulsa, OK. *Kudos!* (The offering for Association Sunday supported this scholarship, she said.)

– **Special Collection for Murray Grove**: The Board approved a special collection as requested by Murray Grove to support work needed in preparation for "the historic 250th anniversary of the founding of Universalism in America . . ." (John Murray preached the first Universalist sermon in America on the site on September 30, 1770.)

– **Religious Education (RE) Week at The Mountain**: The Board approved advance payment for Director of RE Heidi Jannsch's participation at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in western North Carolina from July 8-13. Two Credentialing portfolio programs will be offered. *Enjoy!*

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session. A second Executive Session was held this month on Monday, May 21, 2012.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.



Sing-Along Night
Saturday, June 2, 7 to 9 pm!

Anyone who would like to join in or lead with your favorite BEATLES songs, please feel free to join in the fun! Please e-mail Steve Fiedler with as many songs that you think you could perform and he will cross reference who will do what songs! There will be some "back up" help available if you need a little of JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE or RINGO to assist.

Admission is free and light refreshments will be available.

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, June 7, 1 pm

The Margaret Circle will meet in the Church Library at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday June 7. The program will be presented by Marsha Hannah with refreshment by Judy Brown. This outline looks like it will be a very interesting program with many discussions.

There are many books and movies with the theme of “what if”. In the book *The Summerhouse* by Jude Deveraux three women who are together to celebrate their 40th birthdays get the chance to go back in time to one specific day and, knowing what they know now, get to decide if they want to make the same decision or change their lives by making an alternate decision. In the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life,” George Bailey gets the chance to see what the world would be like if he were never born. The book *The Years of Rice and Salt* offer an alternative history of the world when the European plague kills over 99% of the population instead of the actual number of only 40 to 60%. The television show “The Twilight Zone” aired an episode about a time traveler who went back in time and tried to kill Adolph Hitler when he was a baby.

We will be discussing both personal and world wide “what ifs”. What would you decide if you were offered the choice of choosing the career you chose, or the spouse you married, or any other life time decisions you made or changing that decision? What would the world look like if certain famous and infamous people never existed or if they choose alternative lifestyles?

Men’s Discussion Group

The Men’s Discussion Group met on May 22 at the home of Susan and Al Polk, in Al’s “Man Cave” (i.e., spacious workshop). The cloudy conditions prevented our usual stargazing with the use of cell phones. This month’s attendees included Men’s group veterans Al Polk, Jack Miller, Joe Terrazzini, Bob Gillies, Steve Fiedler, Paul Utts and Richard Grzywinski as well as three new attendees Wayne Andress, TJ Jansch, and Michael St. Amour.

Al Polk’s usual hospitality included Guinness on tap and real “tomato pies,” not to be confused with “pizza”, and hot wings. We mourned the passing on that same day of Eugene Polley, age 96, inventor of the TV remote controller, sometimes referred to as the father of the couch potato. Among the interesting discussions were the various bees in the area, particularly carpenter bees, and the process by which chickens produce eggs – seriously. Trust me, you had to be there.

The next meeting is June 26, 6 pm, location TBD.

Children’s Religious Education

"School's Out for Summer"

Last month several of our CRE Committee members attended a workshop at the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester, PA entitled *Radical Hospitality: Creating Beloved Community for All Children*. The seminar focused on the inclusion of children with special needs in our UU congregations. Ronda Cluff graciously offered her notes as a summary of what the team learned:

- For many children, children’s RE represents the opportunity for one hour of unconditional acceptance.
- When interacting with a child who is an atypical learner or thinker, always presume intelligence and choose to believe the child is doing the best they can with the information and skills they have.
- Be present, be non-judgmental (judgments are assumptions, and we can be wrong about those) and have no agenda.
- Labels can be helpful tools, but they can also deny the humanness of a person – so see beyond the child’s need or difference to who they are and the gifts they bring.
- It’s important to create within our community an atmosphere of safety and trust for all of our children.
- RE classes should include varied approaches to engage children with different types of learning and knowing.

At UUCSJS we have reached the end of another church school year! In the next few weeks our children will be celebrating the end of their RE classes, finalizing plans for and presenting June 10th’s Coming of Age service and enjoying some community time with their families at the home base of Universalism, Murray Grove. All of this along with graduations, award ceremonies, and championship games makes this time of year a busy one for our families! But we must always take a moment during the rush to express thanks to those who got us to this point -- and so I would like to thank our Children’s RE teachers, the Children’s RE Committee and members of the congregation who helped make this school year a success! If you were downstairs every Sunday or once in a while, you made a difference! Thank you, and don’t be a stranger!

During the summer months, we take a break from our structured classes and let the kids enjoy fun activities each week in an all-ages group led by one of our congregants. The first of these "summer sessions" will be on Sunday, June 17, while the following Sunday June 24 will be an all-ages (intergenerational) service. Throughout July and August, some of the Sunday activities will include games, jewelry making, tie-dying t-shirts, and various craft projects.

Have a safe and happy summer!

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Last month, UUCSJS participated again in the 99% Spring Movement (an outgrowth of Occupy Wall Street). On May 9, UUCSJS and members of the local community participated in a one-day protest demonstration outside of the Bank of America branch office in Absecon, New Jersey to draw attention to the individuals and families who have been hurt by the recession and foreclosures. Despite heavy rain and winds, our protest went forward and our spirits were “undampened.” We encouraged depositors to “Move Your Money” into local community banks, savings and loans, and credit unions.

Unbelievably, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has been unable to find twenty, yes, I said 20, young members both willing and qualified to take the Civil Rights Journey 2012, a remarkable educational and inspirational trip. Apparently, 20 is the magic number that would make this trip economically viable. As of April 26, they have been able to recruit only 11 qualified applicants, 3 of which are from UUCSJS. As of this writing, we are waiting for word if the trip is still a go.

The Social Justice Committee is reinvigorating UUCSJS' relationship with the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. Richard Grzywinski will be serving on their Economic Justice and Health Care Task Forces and participated in their May 16 statewide conference call. Sheila Stoner will be working with the Marriage Equality Task Force to override the governor's veto of the legislation that would have established marriage equality in New Jersey.

If you are interested in working with UULMNJ's Environment, Education or Immigration Task Forces, please let Richard Grzywinski know.

What is Loving Day?

Loving Day marks the anniversary of Loving v. Virginia (1967), the Supreme Court case that overturned our nation's last antimiscegenation law and legalized interracial marriage across America.

Mildred and Richard Loving could not be legally married in their home state of Virginia in 1958, so they drove to Washington DC to get married there. When they returned to Virginia, they found they were still breaking the law just BEING married. They were arrested, tried, and convicted. The judge gave them a choice of serving the jail term of one to three years or banishment from Virginia for 25 years.

Did you know?

- The only states that *never* had restrictions on interracial marriage: New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- Maine was the last state in the Northeast to legalize it – in 1883.
- No Southern state made it legal until forced to do so by the Supreme Court decision in 1967.

Learn more about Loving Day at www.lovingday.org.

Characteristics of a Healthy Congregation

We accept differences – rather than deny them.

We focus on our strengths – rather than our weaknesses.

We focus on our mission – rather than on getting along, the past, survival, the minister or some other thing or issue.

We respond to anxiety and change - instead of react to it.

We manage our conflict – instead of deny it.

We act flexibly and creatively – instead of being rigid.

We respond graciously and truthfully – rather than judgmentally or secretively.

We develop caring relationships – rather than willful transactions with one another.

We empower others – rather than trying to dominate them or cure them.

We recognize the interdependent web of existence – rather than being isolated, unrelated parts.

We practice stewardship gratefully and willingly – rather than begrudgingly.

We combine money and the ethical moral life – rather than separating the one from the other.

We share our lives – instead of each living for oneself.

We offer hospitality to all – instead of favoritism for the few or the like-minded.

Our leaders promote health through their presence and functioning – instead of using techniques and skills.

Our leaders challenge the people - instead of just comforting them.

Our leaders provide immune capacities - instead of enabling disease processes from others.

For us, beginning again is a way of life – instead of staying stuck.

- *Thanks to Peter Steinke and Richard Speck*

Recent data collected by the uua:

- The average UU congregation's membership is 148.
- 28% of congregations reported an increase of more than 3% in adult membership in the past year – but almost 33% reported declines of more than 3%.
- Growth exceeding 3% was most common among large congregations (401-600) and midsize congregations (161-300).

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

Pastor Charlie Dieterich

**Music Director &
Sunday Service Coordinator**

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Board of Trustees 2011-12

Debbi Dagavarian, Jim Gentile, Judy Pereira, Primrose Reeves,
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler



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June 2012

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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