



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 01

January 2014

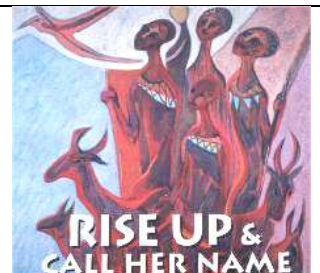
January Services “We are a people of ... Prophecy”

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.

January 5	<p>The Fire of Commitment <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>Amidst “Happy New Year” wishes do we wonder what 2014 will bring? Or do we ask, as a community, what we will aspire to and work toward? I have taken the sermon title from our hymnal... a song that teaches us to demand a deeper Justice! But how?</p>
January 12	<p>The Gifts of Jewish Prophecy <i>Guest Speaker David Chapman</i></p> <p>What did it mean to our ancient Hebrew forebears to be a “prophet?” As Dave will discuss in this week’s sermon, it did not refer to someone who predicted future events. What did these remarkable prophets tell us? They shared with us a message that changed everyone forever. This gift constituted one of the Jews’ greatest gifts to humankind – the belief that we hold our destinies within our own hands and, with help from the God they believed had spoken to them, we have the ability to forge a better future for ourselves and our children.</p>
January 19	<p>Speaking Engagement <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>This is Rev. Martin Luther King Day weekend. Let us honor his memory by doing the work of beloved community. Today we will consider how our perspectives affect our effectiveness.</p>
January 26	<p>We are Covenanted Community <i>Lay speaker Jim Gentile</i></p> <p>Recently our community entered into our Covenant of Right Relations. In it, we challenged ourselves to “walk together toward a vision of beloved community” hoping to be shaped into a “congregation of kindness, humility and generosity.” Now that some time has passed since we have made this profound pronouncement, it now is timely to consider how we are responding to the challenge we have laid out for ourselves, and consider where our community goes from here.</p>

Rise Up & Call Her Name, a woman-honoring multicultural journey into Earth-based religion, holds its first session at Noon on January 5, 2014.

There’s a sign-up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary.
A light lunch will be provided. *See page 2 for details.*



Margaret Circle will meet January 2, 2014 at 1 pm in the library. Shelee McIlvaine will continue her program "A Study in Race Relations: Part 2 -- A Black Woman's Perspective". She will also continue to answer previously asked questions.
Happy New Year to all. -- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

January Book Lovers Group

The January meeting (Friday the 17 at 7 pm in the UU Center library) will discuss the novel, *The Physician* by Noah Gordon. Recommended by Ellie Gibson, it is the story of orphaned Rob Cole who goes from a familiar life in 11th-century London to small English villages and eventually to the medical school in Isfahan. "Populated by engaging characters, rich in incident and vivid in historical detail..." writes the *New York Times*. I hear it is long, so get started reading!

Rise Up and Call Her Name

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites both women and men to attend Rise Up & Call Her Name, a woman-honoring journey into global Earth-based beliefs. The course is designed as a follow-up to Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, an earlier class that focused on women's personal spirituality. Rise Up was created in response to requests from attendees of the earlier class for more information about the female in religious practice. Our first session will be on January 5, 2014, at noon, in the downstairs main room; thereafter the first Sunday of every month. We will provide a light lunch, coffee, and tea. A fee of \$5 is requested for the course, to cover the cost of materials.

Who is Equal Access?

EqUUal Access promotes equality and access for Unitarian Universalists with disabilities. People with disabilities, our families, friends and allies started this membership organization. We are dedicated to ensuring that our faith community warmly welcomes all people including those of us with disabilities.

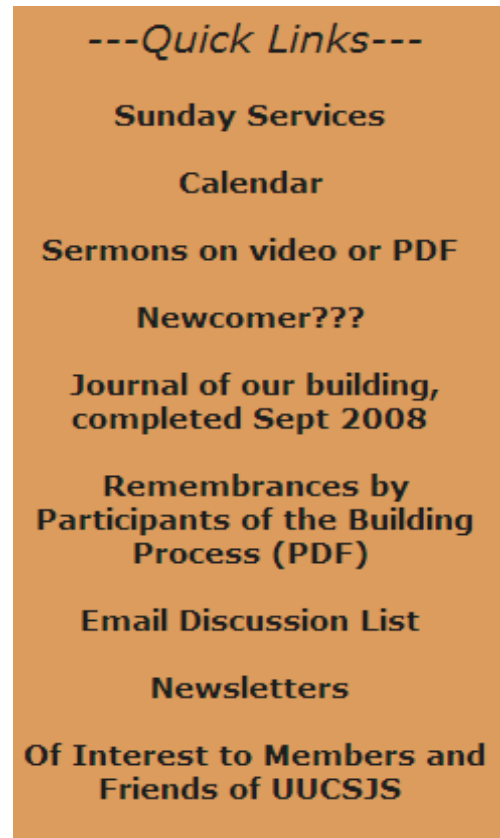
Our Vision of the Future:

There are no attitudinal, physical or communication barriers preventing full participation in the life of our Unitarian Universalist communities and the broader society. For more info, visit www.equualaccess.org.

Start your New Year's resolutions off right with healthy foods from your local Acme or Shoprite!

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!

Do you know what we have available on our website (UUCSJS.org)?



Need to check what the service is all about this Sunday? [Click Sunday Services](#).

Want to know what time that meeting or workshop is happening? [Click Calendar](#).

Itchin' for a dose of Charlie or one of our many great guest or lay speakers? [Click Sermons on video](#).

Have a friend who wants to know what to expect at one of our services? [Click Newcomer](#).

Want to reminisce about our building process in pictures or words? [Click Journal of our building or Remembrances](#).

Want to subscribe or unsubscribe from our new listserv? [Click Email Discussion List](#).

Need to check something in the last Newsletter? [Click Newsletters](#).

Checking on some documents such as Board Minutes or Reimbursement forms or Member Directory? [Click Of Interest to Members and Friends](#).

Reverend Charlie's Page

Prophetic Church?

I have been dabbling in the Plato again... this time I looked up "Meno" -- a dialogue between Socrates and a rich man visiting Athens. Mr. Meno asks Socrates about learning, and Socrates summarizes the question as:

You argue that a man cannot enquire either about that which he knows, or about that which he does not know; for if he knows, he has no need to enquire; and if not, he cannot; for he does not know the very subject about which he is to enquire (Benjamin Jowett translation)

As I see it, Meno has divided the world into things we know and things we don't know. And clearly we can't learn what we know, and cannot learn what we don't know because we don't know to study it. Of course, there are things we know we don't know, but someone else does... but that's not part of the dialogue!

Socrates instead points out that there have been "men and women who spoke of things divine" and that these things spoken were instantly true and beautiful. These speakers were priests or priestesses... or divinely inspired poets. The truth they spoke was new truth... suddenly the world knew something we didn't know we didn't know.

And yes, it's clear that Donald Rumsfeld studied Plato when he said (regarding Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction):

There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.

The realm of unknown unknowns is the realm of prophecy. Prophetic speech suddenly brings something new into focus... Jesus brings our attention to the beautiful lilies of the field as evidence of God's love. Others might see them as the wonder of nature, the importance of sexual attraction, the joy of perceiving or something else that has never even been imagined. Poets and prophets live on the edge of this new territory, listening for the unknown unknowns.

Our theme this month is "We are a People of Prophecy," which sounds much more serious than December's "Tradition" and February's upcoming "Passion." The good news is that prophecy is not the same as divination. We don't have to predict the future to be a people of prophecy. We can be prophetic by talking about today; we can talk about unseen things in plain sight.

Don't expect me to suddenly prophesy -- it's not a spigot one can turn on at will. Psychologist Julian Jaynes proposed that prophecy was a leftover from earlier human development where the right brain would speak to the left brain, guiding early humans to food or safety. This general ability was lost as language developed and we began to hear ourselves think. But sometimes, out of the blue, the right brain, which forms meaning from patterns rather than narrative, will speak into consciousness and this can be considered prophetic.

Traditional "right brain" activities, like singing, art and poetry can make us better aware of insights. And so I invite you to find these moments in your life; spend time being aware this month. Watch the snow fall, hear the windshield wipers, taste the coffee with your whole mouth and throat. Don't make frivolous New Year's resolutions, but do spend some time as 2014 begins to listen and be open to the messages that dwell within you, unnoticed.

-- Rev. Charlie

Pastor Charlie's office hours are Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm
or by appointment (except New Year's Day).

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A new Adult Religious Education program "**Principled Commitment**" starts this month. It is a series of workshops for committed couples using the UUA's seven principles to examine their relationships. Because many couples have children who need to be in bed "at a reasonable hour," Rev Charlie is planning to offer this as a combined in-person and Internet video conference format. The first Principled Commitment workshop will be on Tuesday, January 28, starting at 7:30 pm. We need at least four couples to then agree on a time and dates for future workshops (perhaps fourth-Tuesdays will work, maybe we meet twice a month?). Limited to 10 couples.

"**Be Present in the Universe: Explore Time through Science and Awareness**" will be offered on Saturday, January 11 at 9 am at the UU Center. The only cost is for lunch and you can bring your own if you want to do that. Come explore time with Mike Cluff and Alan Oliver.

Don't forget:

Building A Multicultural World – Sun., Jan. 12, 12 noon;
Spirit In Practice – Tues., Jan. 14, 7 pm,
Stay On Topic – Thurs., Jan. 16, 1 pm.

Circle Dinners - 2014

Signups for our first Circle Dinner will begin this week, and extend through mid-January. Circle dinners are a wonderful way for people in our community to get to know and enjoy each other in a relaxed way. From this group, Marie Taylor will construct a schedule of dinners that each include 8 people. Sign-up for the May and June dinners will occur in the spring. Each month there will be rotation of people, with the goal of having dinner with as many different folks as possible. If unable to host, you may note this on the sign-up sheet.

You may sign up as a couple, or as a single, or two single people may want to sign up together as a two-fer. Each month each couple, or two singles, will be assigned one of the following roles:

- A: Host, who provides space, and hors d'oeuvres as well as water, coffee and tea
- B: Provides main course
- C: Provides salad and bread for dinner
- D: Provides dessert.

This year Circle Dinners will be BYOB. Please bring your favorite wine, beer, or non-alcoholic drink.

If you are interested in circle dinners, but not able to commit, consider signing up as a substitute to fill in for those whose plans change. This means that you may be called upon by those who are in need of finding a substitute for themselves.

A handout at the signup table explains this further. Please consider this wonderful program, now in its third year. Remember that the idea of the Circle Dinners is to enjoy good fellowship and food, NOT a competition for gourmet meals. Join in and have fun.

Recycling After the Holidays

Did you receive a new smartphone or digital camera for the holidays? Did you know that UUCSJS raises funds by recycling these items through Planet Green (planetgreenrecycle.com)?



We collect and recycle:

Inkjet Cartridges, Cell Phones, mp3 players, iPods, iPads/Tablets, eBook Readers, Digital Cameras, GPS Units, Calculators, PDAs, Video Game Handhelds, Video Games.

Look for a small collection box outside the sanctuary door on the right. Additional items can be placed under the small table.



A Mindful Meal

Join us **Saturday, January 18 from 6-8 pm** for an enjoyable and educational community shared meal. We will gather at the UU

Center to share each other's company and our assorted dishes, as we learn how to become more aware of the environmental and social impacts of our food choices. We offer the following suggestions to consider in choosing your "mindful food" contribution:

- Vegan and vegetarian selections are good (eating lower on the food chain).
- Organically grown is preferable (lower environmental impacts).
- If vegetarian includes eggs, cage free/organic are preferable.
- Seafood is best if the seafood used is harvested in a sustainable way.
- Meat is acceptable, and is included in the diets of many of us. If you can, stay away from factory farmed poultry, pork, or beef.
- Locally made products are best, such as locally made sausage or locally raised chickens.
- Locally sold products are good in that they help to sustain "main street" businesses.
- Fairly traded products are preferable.

For more information or to let us know what you are bringing, contact Karen York or Judy Pereira, or simply sign up in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday.

"In every crowd are certain persons who seem just like the rest, yet they bear amazing messages."
~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Night Flight*

"There was a time when skepticism was an act of rebellion. Since to a degree I both believe in evolution and have faith, I can only conclude that, as prophesied, to have faith will someday be an act of rebellion." ~ Criss Jami

"The ancient Oracle said that I was the wisest of all the Greeks. It is because I alone, of all the Greeks, know that I know nothing."
~ Socrates

Yahoo Groups listserv is now UUism listserv!

We are transitioning to a new listserv email product hosted by the uuism.net domain. All current users that receive MidWeek Announcements have been automatically added to the new listserv. Here is a chart highlighting the differences between the two:

New listserv	Old listserv
Subject line prefixed with [UUCSJS]	Subject line prefixed by [uucsjs@yahoogroups.com]
“Reply” goes to only the sender	“Reply” goes to whole group
“Reply All” goes to whole group	“Reply All” goes to whole group
Attachments are permitted	Attachments are not permitted
Daily digest optional	Daily Digest optional
Email your message to uucsjs@lists.uuism.org	Email your message to uucsjs@yahoogroups.com

If you would like to sign up for the listserv for a different (or additional) email address, go to our website and click on the link “Email Discussion List”:



Then supply your name and email address and click subscribe.

UUCSJS -- UUCSJS Email Discussion List

About UUCSJS

English (USA)

This is the new UUCSJS mailing list which will replace the Yahoo Groups list.

To see the collection of prior postings to the list, visit the [UUCSJS Archives](#). *(The current archive is only available to the list members.)*

Using UUCSJS

To post a message to all the list members, send email to uucsjs@lists.uuism.org.

You can subscribe to the list, or change your existing subscription, in the sections below.

Subscribing to UUCSJS

Subscribe to [UUCSJS] by filling out the following form. This is a closed list, which means your subscription will be held for approval. You will be notified of the list moderator's decision by email. This is also a private list, which means that the list of members is not available to non-members.

Your email address:	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Your name (First and Last):	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>

To unsubscribe, use this:

To unsubscribe from UUCSJS, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options enter your subscription email address:

<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Unsubscribe or edit options
------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Minister

Reverend Charlie Dieterich

Music Director & Worship Coordinator

Barbara Miller
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Heidi Jansch
sjsdre@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Cassandra Shellhorn
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



**P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 965-9400**

Board of Trustees 2013-14

Debbi Dagavarian, Doug Dickinson, Judy Pereira,
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

January 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

