



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2017

June 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.

June 4 Annual Meeting	CRE Coming of Age <i>Melissa Hutchison, Heidi Jannsch, and the COA Class</i> Throughout the RE year, our teens explored theology, spirituality and history, and with the help of their class leaders and mentors, learned what it means to define their beliefs and put their faith into action. Join us as we celebrate their spiritual journeys and they share their belief statements with their beloved UUCSJS community. <i>This service will include a second collection to support the Murray Grove Summer Camp..</i>
June 11	The Power of Prayer. An Atheists Point of View <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i> Prayer takes many forms and serves many purposes. Mostly it is considered intercessional, that is, asking the Higher Power or Creator to alter the natural course of events in some way for our benefit. But for an atheist, there are other ways to pray that are equally effective in helping us deal with our emotional and physical needs. Can it still be transformative? What is prayer? Do we all do it without even recognizing it as prayer? Perhaps the ultimate source of prayer's power is within ourselves. Maybe it is spiritual rather than supernatural. Come, Let Us Pray Together!!
June 18	Father's Day: Hope for the Past <i>Rev. John Marsh</i> Towards the end of his life, Robert Frost was asked if he had hope for the future. His response was that he not only had hope for the future, he also had hope for the past. It seems to me that the two things go hand in hand– and the relationship between fathers and their children is a great place to begin that consideration.
June 25 Farewell BBQ	Prodigal Journeys <i>Rev. John Marsh</i> Whether we know it or not– we are all on a journey. This will be the last opportunity of my interim ministry here to share traveling tips with you. <i>BBQ Farewell Picnic will follow the service.</i>

ANNUAL MEETING of the UUCSJS

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017 at 11:35 am



Rev. Marsh's last Sunday in the pulpit is June 25. The Congregation will be holding a farewell picnic for him on June 25 after service. Please plan to attend to bid John both thanks and farewell.

Margaret Circle will hold their last meeting until September on June 1, 2017 at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. After a brief meeting to discuss our sign ups for the upcoming season and the summer program, we will partake in Joys and Concerns. Judy Pereira will serve refreshment and Shelee McIlvaine will lead a presentation. As we look forward to longer and warmer days, come share the afternoon with the women in the Circle.

BOOK CLUB will be meeting Friday, June 16 at 7 pm in the UU Center library. This is the month we make our book selections for the coming year. Please email your book choice to Barb Morell several days before the meeting so a list can be sent out ahead of time. Thank you!!!!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Mark your calendars!

We will be hosting families for Family Promise on:

- **July 9 - 15, 2017**
- **August 27 - September 2, 2017**
- **November 19 - 25, 2017**

Summer Music at UUCSJS

During the summer our choir takes a break and we welcome other musicians to share their music with us for Prelude, Offering, and Postlude. I can assure you we are an appreciative and uncritical audience!

Would you like to be a song leader? Barbara can work with you to learn this skill in short time before the service.

Please let Barbara Miller (uucsjsmusic@gmail.com or 609-628-3440) know if you would like to be part of our music ministry this summer.

FEETS KEEP ON WALKIN'



Please remember to bring in your unused, new or gently used foot wear and place in the lime green bin under the coat rack. Your gifts are gifts for the needy. Many feet of thanks!!!

Feed the Critters

During the month of June, we will be working in conjunction with South Jersey Animal Advocates to collect items for HiArbor Cares (www.hiarbor.org), a Galloway-based non-profit that rescues kittens and cats and adopts them out after neutering, spaying, testing and vaccinating them.

The following items are needed: clumping litter, Fancy Feast canned food, Iams dry kitten food, Maxi Cat chicken adult dry food, old towels (no bedding please), Dawn dish detergent, paper towels and bleach. Contact Ronda Cluff with any questions. Thank you!

Go Wish

At one of our potluck dinners with Rev. Dawn Fortune, she posed a question "What are your wishes for your last days and funeral?" After a bit of silence, a lively conversation ensued. Rev. Dawn mentioned a game that helps family and close ones discuss death and dying in an entertaining and non-threatening way www.gowish.org/article.php/how_to_play

The cost of the cards is \$26 for 2 decks that are required for more than one person to play. There is a discount when you order multiples. If you would like to be part of a larger order and get a discount, please contact Barbara Miller. I will be ordering my cards soon.

Barbara Miller

Welcome to Our First Called Minister, Rev. Dawn Fortune!



Counting the Votes



Thanks to our Ministerial Search Committee!



The Laying On of Hands – UUCSJS Welcomes Dawn into our Beloved Community

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS May 2017

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on **Tuesday, May 9, 2017** at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary at the UU Center, President Jim Gentile presiding. All Board members were present, as was ex-officio member, Rev. John March, Interim Minister. Chalice lighting opened the meeting, and joys and concerns were shared.

➤ **Agenda Items**

• **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Karen York distributed the UUCSJS Draft Budget for FY 2017-18 (5/7/17), and stated that she would not have the usual written report this month. Further changes to the draft budget will be forthcoming before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4.

– **Native Plant Sale.** The treasurer announced that the plant sale had been very successful again this year, earning some **\$4,700**. Due to inclement weather, the event was held inside the UU Center; an amazing sight! The Board congratulates master organizer Jesse Connor and her crew on this, the 7th Annual UUCSJS Native Nursery-Grown Plant Sale!

– **Cost of Ministry.** The treasurer reported that this month she's been working on a cluster of related items: cost of called ministry, the ministerial agreement itself, and development of the draft budget. Recognizing that finances are only one aspect of questions people may have (and to make sure that Candidating Week is not clouded by worries about finances), York said she has been putting together *Frequently Asked Questions about Calling a Minister*, to be distributed beginning this week.

– **Chalice Lighter Grant.** To keep moving forward on achieving full-time ministry, the treasurer called attention to the application process deadlines for the Chalice Lighter Grant program. It was agreed that we will work toward submitting an "Intent to Apply" by October 1, followed by the "Full Application" on December 1. Our new long-range strategic plan would need to be ready at that time. If awarded, the grant could provide some \$20,000 over three years.

• **Minister's Report.** Rev. Marsh augmented his monthly written report by saying that he would be "making himself scarce" as the congregation moves into Candidating Week. Our Interim Minister sincerely wishes us the best of luck!

– **Teach-In on Racism and White Supremacy.** Rev. Marsh again raised the matter of the push for UU congregations to engage in a teach-in on racism and white supremacy (preferably on April 30 or May 7), saying that roughly half have done so. It was agreed that our congregation can and should still respond to this call to action. Rev. Marsh indicated that he will consult with those who have expressed an interest to ascertain availability.

– **Community Goodbye Picnic.** We are fast approaching the end of Rev. Marsh's tenure as interim minister, and DRE Heidi Jannsch and others have observed that we will want to have a proper (and fond) farewell. A goodbye family picnic will almost certainly take place on Sunday, June 25, following the service.

• **Children's Religious Education (CRE) Report.**

– **Sunday Child Caregiver.** Adding job description to Personnel Manual. **OUTCOME:** Due to press of other business, this item was tabled until next month.

• **CRE Request on Murray Grove.**

– *A motion to authorize a second collection on Sunday, June 4 to benefit Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center was adopted unanimously.*

• **Candidating Week!**

The Board was scheduled to meet with Rev. Dawn Fortune on

Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 pm. Jim Gentile and Damon Smith generously offered to make dinner, with contributions from Hutchison and Pereira. Asked for final insights, Rev. Marsh advised, "just be your friendly selves!"

As most of you know, of course, we now have a Settled Minister, our first! At the *Special Congregational Meeting to Call a Minister* on Sunday, May 21, members cast



83 votes in favor of the candidate recommended by the Ministerial Search Committee, after two years of search. **Rev. Dawn C. Fortune** will join us on August 1, 2017, as we seek to grow and deepen our influence as a liberal religious presence in southern New Jersey. After the vote, members

gathered with our new minister in the Sanctuary for a time of celebration, including the "Laying On of Hands." An extended coffee hour, complete with festive cake, was enjoyed by all. Big smiles were the order of the day, and nobody seemed keen on leaving the UU Center!

• **Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC).**

The Board continues to monitor our situation with respect to FPAC. Co-chairs Deb Dagavarian and Barb Morell have expressed some concern about how well the program is fulfilling its mission. Recently, our scheduled week had to be postponed in part due to Deb's breaking her arm, but further, our co-chairs wanted to make sure that we would actually have families to host before signing up volunteers. Since the Board met on May 9, we have received our future hosting dates for 2017 (Sunday to Sunday), **July 9-15, August 27-September 2, and November 19-25**. The president observed that UUCSJS has an interest in the program's success, in that we have given some \$7,000 to the organization so far through fund-raising and donations. The treasurer told the Board that she has written to FPAC asking to see their budget.

• **Nominating Committee—update.**

The president reported that the blanks on the annual meeting agenda for nominees for the Board of Trustees have now been filled: for At-Large, Marsha Hannah, and for Board Secretary, Jessica Dunn-Safonof.

• **Old/New Business (2 items).**

– **Proposed guidelines for "UUCSJS Memorial Woodland Path."** Information was received May 8 regarding this item. Jesse Connor and her committee (Richard Grzywinski, Betsy Searight, Bill & Peg Felix, Marsha Hannah, Paul & Helen Utts, and Angela Wexler) are requesting that the Board review the material, get back with any questions and/or suggestions, and ultimately, approve the proposed guidelines. **OUTCOME:** Due to press of other business and the importance of this matter, the item was tabled until next month.

– **2017 General Assembly (GA)—election of UUA president.** After discussion, it was determined that at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4, there being no UUCSJS delegates to GA this year, as seems likely, the Board will propose electing three (3) "absentee delegates" (last year's delegates Ron & Melissa Hutchison and Aaron Thomas), who will then, in turn, cast votes on behalf of the congregation for one of the three candidates for UUA president: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Alison Miller, or Rev. Jeanne Pupke. (They also could vote on other matters coming before this year's delegates.)

➤ **Adjournment**

After extinguishing the chalice, the meeting adjourned at 8:35.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of
the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:30 pm
in the Sanctuary at the UU Center,
75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey



WE HAVE A MINISTER !

The vote was unanimous –
83 members voted “yes”

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summertime for Children's RE

We have concluded another great year in children’s Religious Education. Many thanks to all who made this year possible:

- ♥ *our Teachers:* Karen York, Jessica Dunn, TJ Jannsch, Betsy Erbaugh, and Erica Onofrio;
- ♥ *our Coming of Age mentors:* Helene Gentile, Bud Smith, Kit Marlowe and Katy Cardwell;
- ♥ *our Toddler room supervisors:* Meredith Massey and Olivia Smith; and
- ♥ *our Children’s RE Committee:* Ronda Cluff, Colby Tippins, Jess, Meredith, Karen, Betsy and Stepanie Anchazar, and Melissa Hutchison who led the teens in planning their COA service.

After the Coming of Age Sunday service on June 4, we look forward to enjoying some down-time together at our annual retreat at Murray Grove from June 9 to 11. See the notice in this newsletter, or contact Heidi at sjsdre@gmail.com for more information. Throughout June we will transition into our Summer Sundays, where each week an all-ages activity is provided for the children during service.

Enjoy your summer!

Heidi Jannsch, UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Explore... Discover... Relax... Reflect... Share... Play

Murray Grove Annual Gathering

June 9-11, 2017

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year’s gathering will be Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700’s. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots. Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we enjoy an indoor pot-luck dinner. Sunday will include a participant-led Children’s Chapel/Sunday service. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy, a ga-ga pit and playground for the kids, and swimming is usually available.

Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event!

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 30 spaces available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$25 per adult and \$10 per child per night, or \$50 per adult, \$20 per child for the weekend (babies free). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can’t join us for the full weekend, please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day.

During the gathering we will need help with the cookout, campfire, and with organizing activities and intergenerational games. If you have a hobby or activity to share with folks (Yoga, birding, arts & crafts, etc) this is a great time to share it with other members of the congregation. If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign-up sheets on Sundays in May or contact Heidi Jannsch at sjsdre@gmail.com



**Support our congregation by doing what
you already do – buy groceries!**
with gift cards for your local Acme or Shoprite!

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%.
We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

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Board of Trustees 2016-17

Jim Gentile, Melissa Hutchison, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,
Damon Smith, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

June 2017

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