



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 19, Issue 10

October 2017

October 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.

<p>October 1</p>	<p align="center">The Challenge of Universalism in Our Times <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>On the 247th anniversary of John Murray’s first sermon at Potter’s rural chapel, we pause to consider what our first principle calls us to be and do. Universalism has evolved since Murray’s 1770 landing, but has become no less challenging in our modern age. Join us as we explore what it means to believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and the challenges of living out that faith in today’s increasingly polarized world.</p>
<p>October 8</p>	<p align="center">Christopher Columbus’ Legacy <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Cities around the United States are re-naming the celebration of Christopher Columbus’ “discovery” of North America in honor of the Indigenous Peoples who suffered the very worst that European Imperialism brought. The last millennium’s culture of exploration and exploitation has left us with behaviors and ideals that linger still. Join us as we consider what the vestiges of that legacy look like in 2017 and how they play out in our lives.</p>
<p>October 15</p>	<p align="center">What Will We Harvest? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, “you reap whatever you sow.” In this time of harvest, it bears consideration: what do we sow in our world, beyond that which is in our vegetable garden? What beauty do we plant? Do we sow peace or discord? Every living, growing thing requires food, water, and some kind of energy to grow and multiply. Join us as we consider what can we do to nurture the things we wish to see grow into a harvest that will benefit all.</p>
<p>October 22 Intergenerational</p>	<p align="center">The Fire Children <i>Guest speaker Lauren Hooker</i></p> <p align="center">CELEBRATING DIVERSITY WITH “THE FIRE CHILDREN” - AN INTERGENERATIONAL, INTERACTIVE SERVICE WITH MUSIC, STORYTELLING AND DIALOGUE.</p> <p>“The Fire Children” is a lively, musical rendition of an African creation myth from Ghana celebrating the Earth and its people of many different shades and colors brought to life with songs, djembe drum and thumb piano. Informative, fun and educational, “The Fire Children” is the perfect way to rejoice in diverse cultures - what makes us different – yet the same!</p>
<p>October 29</p>	<p align="center">Remembrance: Peering Through the Veil <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Samhain is the time of the year when the veil between the living and the dead is said to be at its thinnest. It is a time to remember those who have left the realm of the living in the past year, to gaze at them through the veil, and release them with a good-bye. For this service, people are encouraged to bring photos of loved ones who have died in the past year to place on the shared altar so that we may share one another’s grief and offer support. This will be a somber service of ritual and periods of silence. Please join us in this annual time of remembrance.</p>

About our guest speaker....

LAUREN HOOKER is an award winning vocalist/pianist, songwriter, storyteller and arts activist with three critically acclaimed CDs and numerous radio and television appearances to her credit, including NJN Public Television's State of the Arts: "Abstractions in Music, Art and Theater" filmed live at the Cape May Jazz Festival, and WBGO's "Singers Unlimited" with Michael Bourne. She has performed and/or recorded with some of the best in the business including Rufus Reid, Mike Richmond, and Billie Holiday's former pianist, Mal Waldron. Christopher Loudon (JAZZ TIMES) states... "Hooker's ability to add lyrics to instrumental classics is flat out masterful... (and) as craftswoman of original tunes can hold her own against pretty much any singer-songwriter in the business." Critics have embraced her as... "a musical renaissance woman, an artist for all seasons to watch for in the coming years" (Jazz Inside Monthly) and a "singer-pianist paving her own unique path far from the territory usually occupied by jazz vocalists." (JazzReview.com) As an arts activist, Ms. Hooker has served as Artistic Director for numerous First Night Celebrations via an Arts Coalition she co-founded: "bringing people together by celebrating cultural diversity through the arts". She recently toured across the country this past summer with one of her Musical Legends' interactive, educational story theater pieces: "The Fire Children," performing solo on piano, voice, Native American flute and djembe drum, and conducting sermons in Unity and Unitarian Churches while facilitating open dialogue with communities about celebrating diversity.

Margaret Circle is in full swing. We invite other women of the Congregation to join us Thursday, October 5 at 1 pm in the library. We will silently listen and reflect as we share joys and concerns followed by refreshments served by Sue and Julie. Our newest member MaryLou D Maria Berhang will present "What Would You Bring?," a discussion which will include sharing a "small cherished item" that each member is encouraged to bring. MaryLou asked, "What emotion is felt when you hold it in your hand?" Our answers may surprise us!

BOOK CLUB will meet at 7 pm in the UU Center library on Friday, October 20. Our selection for October is **THE IMMORTAL IRISHMAN** by Timothy Egan. The story of Thomas Meagher (1823-1867), an Irishman radicalized by the famine, became a hero on three continents. A fascinating, well-told story by an author fully committed to his subject. Egan's impeccable research, uncomplicated readability, and flowing narrative reflect his deep knowledge of a difficult and complex man. All are welcome to come and join the discussion! Contact Barb Morell for details.



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!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends!

Again this year, we are raising funds for Family Promise of Atlantic County through the **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25% off Shopping Pass**. The special shopping day at Boscov's is **Tuesday, October 17**. The Shopping Pass costs only \$5 each, and you save 25% on your purchases at Boscov's! See Janet Longo or Barb Morell for your Shopping Pass.

Also... Don't forget that we are selling sets of 10 beautiful notecards to benefit Family Promise. Each set includes photographs of waterscapes and birds taken by Lynn Wood along the the Great Egg Harbor River and at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Cards are blank inside and can be used for most any occasion. Consider them for gifts. The cost is \$15 per set of ten.

This is a \$3,000 fund raising project that we have initiated, with the other congregations helping. Your generosity has allowed us to forward a check to FPAC this week for \$575. Cards are available at the Social Justice Table.

CHECK OUT OUR FALL FLOWER DISPLAY in our RAIN GARDEN

When we first built our Center and we were plagued with standing water and erosion problems, we installed a rain garden with the aid of Stockton students. Our rain garden has worked really well ever since: collecting and storing rain water that is taken up by the native perennials, grasses, and shrubs that make up this beautiful wildlife and pollinator habitat.

The rain garden originally had an upper area with a selection of herbs in raised beds. Despite our best efforts, however, this smaller section was taken over by weeds. Last summer we came up with a plan to tackle the weed problem and, thanks to our volunteers, we transformed the area. The weeds were dug up and removed, the surface made more level, and the area covered with a commercial ground cover. We've filled large wooden tubs with a potting mix and rosemary, thyme, and chives.

October is a great time to enjoy the fall flower display and check out the butterflies and dragonflies. All are welcome to sit in the enclosed space and trim the herbs for your culinary needs.

-- Jesse Connor

Rev. Dawn Fortune

From the Minister's Study

Greetings all!

As September winds down and October appears on my calendar, my head spins to think that I have been with you now for two months. Sometimes it feels like I just got here, and other times I can't remember what it was like to not yet be your minister. I take that experience as an indication of this being a very good match.

Fall is perhaps my favorite time of the year. The air turns dry and crisp, the humidity eases, and the trees begin their annual explosion of color. It is a time of harvest, of death, and of renewal. This is the time of year when gardeners look at what we've grown this year and measure whether the yield was worth the effort. Success cannot always be measured by what our efforts produce, though. Sometimes, a lesson learned from failure is more valuable than anything that might have been produced by a conventional understanding of success.

I struggle some days to remember that. All my life, I have been focused on the goal, on the end that justifies the means, on the brass ring, the gold star on my paper, the paycheck or bonus at the end of a good season. Ministry unravels that product-oriented mindset, though. No longer can I measure success in the number of widgets produced; now I measure success by the connections I make, the conversations I have, the hands I hold, the stories entrusted to me. Ministry is a fascinating thing to immerse one's self in: no longer do I show up with tool boxes and tape measure to start a job. Now I show up with my heart open and my ears ready to listen. My job is not to build or fix anything; it is to be with people in their times of trouble and their moments of joy.

That's not the kind of thing one can measure, really. Sometimes, at the end of the day, I'll wonder "was this a good day?" and I think about what it means to be called to ministry, and called to be the minister here, and the answer is always "yes. This was a very good day."

I look forward to meeting you all in the course of the year. Please feel free to reach out to me via email minister@uucsjs.org or by voice or text to my cell phone (609) 289-5782.

Blessings,

Rev. Dawn

Something New for Joys & Sorrows

Opinions about how to conduct the ritual around shared joys and sorrows during worship always vary. However, we know that this is an important time for people to connect and let others know what is on their mind.

Now we will be introducing a new approach. The worship team will provide a book in which people may write whatever joys and sorrows they have that they would like to have read aloud by the worship leader during the introduction of Joys & Sorrows. After those items have been read, people will then be invited to come forward and silently place stones in either water by the windows or the sand around our chalice as is our custom.

We hope that members and guests will write their joys and sorrows in the book so that we can share in one another's lives.



What You're Saying When You Say "I Don't Need a Microphone"

"At a recent ministers' meeting I attended, the culture was such that when someone starting to speak didn't have a mic, multiple people would say, 'Please use the mic.' I can't tell you how much that meant to me, not to be the one complaining about not being able to hear. That was real inclusion." -- Rev. Barbara Meyers

One religious leader -- a UU ministerial candidate who asked not to be named, but who has a hearing disability -- explains, "When a mic is being used at a meeting and someone looks at it and says, 'Do we really need this?' I feel outright anger. That person just asked if people like me really exist and demanded that we defend ourselves."

To those who have trouble hearing, these are the messages you're sending when you say, "I don't need a microphone" (or just don't bother using one):

"I can hear fine, and everyone is just like me."

"I'm assuming that everyone can hear me, so it's your problem if you can't."

"My belief that 'I can project' matters more to me than your ability to hear."

"My discomfort in hearing my own amplified voice is more important than your need to be included."

"If you really want me to use a microphone, you'll have to assert yourself to request and/or justify that need (which will likely be uncomfortable)."

Some guidelines to keep in mind:

- ♥ Hearing aids don't always amplify voices well enough in situations where the speaker is at some distance, or there is background noise.
- ♥ If someone needs you to repeat something, and especially if they have to ask twice, change your wording, don't just repeat the same phrase.
- ♥ Minimize the layering of words and music at the same time.
- ♥ Repeat un-amplified questions or comments from the floor of a meeting.
- ♥ People speaking while facing another direction are harder to hear, and impossible to lip read.
- ♥ Have someone carry a second microphone to the people speaking, and cultivate patience to wait for the microphone.
- ♥ When someone says "I don't need a microphone," please consider being a good ally and taking action. It can mean so much to those who would otherwise be excluded, and it can educate someone who needs to be educated.

From www.uua.org/worship/lab/what-youre-saying-when-you-say-i-dont-need-mic. Thanks to Michael Cluff and our dedicated UUCSJS Sound Crew



The Boo-U Coffeehouse and Halloween Party

Friday, October 27, 7-9 pm
(Sponsored by the Men's Group)

Tell a scary story, act out a spooky skit, play an instrument, sing a song, or just come with your scary self. Friends encouraged. Also the first annual "Monster Mash Dance Contest"!

Yes, there will be snacks!

Circle your calendar, make your costume, carve your pumpkin! Tell your friends, post it on Facebook!

Interested in performing? Contact Bud Smith!

Our annual Spiral Dance is coming Sunday, October 29, 2017 - 6:30 pm

Drumming ~ Chanting ~ Dancing in Community

Bring your drums, rattles, and a picture of an Ancestor for the Ancestor Altar

The spiral dance, also called the grapevine dance and the weaver's dance, is a traditional group dance.

We dance to remember our beloved dead, our ancestors and all those we loved who have crossed over as we mourn for those who have died since last Samhain. We also mourn the loss and pain suffered by mother earth, yet even as we grieve we remember and honor the sacred cycle of life, death, rebirth and regeneration. celebrating the births of our children born this year and our own vital connection to the earth and each other in which we ground our hope.

The spiral dance calls upon the energies and talents of musicians, poets, and dancers, singers, priests and priestesses. We are grateful to everyone who helps us create this magical experience we all share. So come one come all, and dance the dance of regeneration.

Samhain (pronounced SOW-in, SAH-vin, or SAM-hayne) means "End of Summer," and is the third and final Harvest, and also the Pagan New Year. It is the time we honor and grieve for our losses and affirm life.

Samhain is usually celebrated on October 31 or November 1. We will be celebrating it on October 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the UU Center

Bring your drums and rhythm instruments if you would like to play along with the music. Children are welcome and appreciated.

And so we end in the Beginning, and the Wheel turns on.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our religious education school year is off to a great start! Our teachers this fall are Karen York with our PreK-1st graders, Paul Utts with our 2nd-5th graders and Mariann Maene with 6th grade and above.

We will have regular classes for the first three Sundays in October, then finish the month enjoying a special Intergenerational service with the rest of the congregation on October 22, and celebrate our annual Halloween party, hosted by the CRE Committee, during class time on October 29.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed our search for a childcare provider and would like to welcome Sade Lane to UUCSJS! Sade will be overseeing the toddler room during service each Sunday, and then be available to supervise children during after service meetings. (Children need to be signed in and out for this after-service care, please see me if you have any questions.)

In fellowship,
Heidi Jannsch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Sound Crew Opening

Have you ever wondered what those people are doing back in the sound closet? It sure looks impressive - all those buttons and cords. It must require immense technical skill to do that job!

Would you believe that in one 15 minute training session you can learn what you need to know? Not only that, but before you are put on the schedule, you will receive an on-the-job training from one of our experts. Michael Cluff, Matt Honig, Pat Kennedy, or Bud Smith will be at your side with encouragement and support. If you are a new or newish member or attender, Sound Crew is a wonderful way to offer a much needed skill and you will still get enjoy the service. Please email [Barbara Miller](mailto:Barbara.Miller@uucsjsmusic@gmail.com) at uucsjsmusic@gmail.com for more information.

Chalice Table

The worship team is looking for a couple of people to help take care of the chalice table on a fairly regular basis. Please see Richard Gryzwinski. to learn more.

Pomona Road Clean-Up
Sunday, October 22, 2017
at 8 am (before service)

Seriously inclement weather cancels.



What Can I Donate?

Our 13th annual Service Auction, an important fundraiser for UUCSJS, will be held on **Saturday, November 11, 2017**. It's a fun evening of fellowship and winning, so mark your calendars now. You're probably asking yourself at this very moment what you can donate. The possibilities are almost endless. Here are some examples.

Events The most popular category of donation is Events. You can host a themed dinner either at your home or in the UU Center. Luau anyone? *Aloha!* French dinner? *Mais oui!* Sushi and chopsticks? *Domo arigato!*

Or, you can take people on a nature experience. White-water rafting? *Whoaaaa, yeah!* A birding morning? *Tweet-tweet!*

Or come up with any other adventure you can think up. A field trip to the Wildwood Boardwalk? *Watch the tram-car please!* A British high tea? *Tut-tut – and please pass the lemon curd!* A make-your-own-pizza party? *Ciao, baby!*

Items If you're like the little old lady who drove her '82 Chevy only on Sundays to go to church and it's still in pristine condition, then donate some of your gently-used stuff. *No large furniture, please.* Or if you're like me and have a kitchen full of never-used appliances and gadgets – *what was I thinking when I bought that mandoline!* – then let some other lucky person feast on your misfortune.

Remember that lovely kitchen towel set you bought for Aunt Gladys? *Well, Aunt Gladys is in assisted living now and can't use it.* What about the unworn skinny jeans you bought for yourself last summer? *Hmmm, that was before you started inhaling Dunkin Donuts every morning.* Perfect to donate!

Baked Goods This is the yummy category. If you're a fair hand at baking, why not donate a pie or two? Or cookies . . . or scones . . . or brownies . . . *excuse me, I have to get a snack.*

Ok, I'm back. What if you're like Melissa and can create a delicious vegan or regular pesto? Or like Jack and have a winemaking operation that any speakeasy during Prohibition would have coveted? Or like Helen and make the best pumpkin pies on this planet? Donate! Donate! Donate!

Handmade Items A category near and dear to my heart, handmade items can include earrings (my motto is that you can never have too many pairs of earrings) or necklaces (ditto the earrings motto). Potters take heed – donate your ceramic originals. If you're a knitter or crocheter, donate your scarves, bags, sweaters, baby clothes, and other cute stuff. If you're an artist, whatever you do well, donate your lovely creations.

Services Once the mainstay of our auction, services of many types are valued. Guitar lessons? Surfing lessons? Full-body massages? Resume writing? Repair work around the house? Babysitting? Limo service to and from the airport? Our congregation offers a plethora of generous services, yours for a reasonable bid.

Another Way to Donate If you really don't have anything to donate – *don't tell me you're still keeping that guitar on which you used to play Kumbaya* – you can buy a sponsorship.

If you have a business and want to advertise, you buy a sponsorship and we'll put in an ad for your business. Easy!

A sponsorship also can be a burning message you want to announce to the congregation. A sponsorship gets you a quarter, half or whole page to get your message out. Do you want to thank someone for something? Do you want to share your joy with the congregation – now that we don't get to say Joys and Concerns aloud every Sunday? Or do you just want to share a lovely poem with others? Sponsorship forms are in the back of the sanctuary with the donation forms.

Here's your chance! Donate! Donate! Donate!

Auction Fever!

Now that you've made your donations to the 13th annual UUCSJS Service Auction on **November 11th** – you've made them, haven't you? – let's discuss the types of auctions you're likely to encounter on Auction night.

Silent Auction The Silent Auction is anything but! It's the largest of the auctions in that it includes events, items, services, handmade items and baked goods. It gets awfully noisy in what we call the "sanctuary."

Let's discuss bidding on the Silent Auction. Each item or event or service has a sheet on which you write your name and bid. Bid high, or check back, because someone may outbid you! If the bids are a fixed price, as with events, you win it when you write your name on one of the pre-numbered lines.

The "Win it now" price means that if you really, really, really want the item, you can write your name on the bottom line next to the "win it now" price and give the sheet to the table monitor. You pay that price – which is usually closer to the estimated value of the item – but that perfect item will be yours before the evening is out!

Live Auction The Live Auction is when you get to hold up your number to bid on something as the auctioneer calls out the offered bids. This is the big time, the main event, the show, the major leagues, the cat's pajamas. This is when – unlike when you were in grade school and had to use the bathroom – holding up your hand could get you in serious trouble. But this is also the most fun part of the auction! Don't dare wave to someone in the front row, or you could be the proud, new owner of a baby carriage.

Chance Auction The Chance Auction is exactly that – all up to chance. You buy a sheet of tickets, and place a ticket in a small bucket in front of the items you want. Then, we pick a ticket from the cup, and if your number is picked, the item's yours.

Winning or losing is pure luck. Unless you stuff the cup with tickets that cost you more than the item would have cost at Target. And then you still might not win it!

And to those of you who believe that one person's junk is another person's treasure . . . get real! If it's your junk, it's my junk and it's their junk. If you donate something we cannot place in the Chance Auction, we will donate it to a worthy charity.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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