



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 20, Issue 6

June 2018

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.

<p>June 3 Picnic after service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Courage to Teach <i>Children's RE and Staff</i></p> <p>Our annual celebration of all things related to our Religious Education program. Our Director of Religious Education for the past 11 years, Heidi Jansch, is leaving her position at the end of June. This will be a day to celebrate Heidi, along with all of the RE teachers and volunteers, and celebrate students who are moving on to college and other things.</p> <p><i>Picnic to follow the service.</i></p>
<p>June 10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If I Could Be A Superhero <i>Lay Speaker Matt Honig</i></p> <p>From Superman to Spider-Man, from Wonder Woman to Captain Marvel, our media is full of heroes, though some segments of the population are better represented than others. But media isn't the only place you can find a hero. Our modern-day heroes come from many places. Let's discover where they're hiding together!</p>
<p>June 17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">It's Complicated... Part 2 <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Father's Day is another secular holiday that brings families together, including parents and grandparents, in-laws and out-laws, to celebrate the role of fatherhood in our culture. At least that's the general idea. What it has become is a marketing opportunity for sellers of "dad stuff," ranging from ties to lawnmowers or power boats. Families are complex, and Father's Day offers every bit of that complexity to be celebrated (or not) with a Hallmark card. Join us to consider the roles of fathers in our modern age and in our own families.</p>
<p>June 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Come Celebrate <i>UUCSJS Interweave</i></p> <p>History (His story), Herstory (Her story) -- is the humankind story of all of us. June is Gay Pride month, a time to celebrate and also to reflect on the stories of all LGBTQ people. Your friends and fellow members of UUCSJS will give you a glimpse of their life in a specific year, a year which has a significant importance in the LGBTQ community. Through music and words, come learn, reflect, and celebrate Gay Pride month.</p> <p><i>After the service, a panel will answer questions during coffee hour.</i></p>



Murray Grove Weekend
Friday – Sunday
June 8-10, 2018



The Buddha is Back

Starting June 2, 2018

The South Jersey Secular Buddhist Sangha is back! We are now affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF) as a local practice group. "Sangha" is an ancient Sanskrit word loosely translated as "community", thus our Sangha will get together as a community of practitioners on the **first Saturday of every month at 10 am until noon at the UU Center**. Although emphasizing secular or agnostic Buddhism, all practitioners of Buddhist teachings are welcome to share their wisdom in community.

So far, we have at least 12 UUCSJS members who have expressed an interest, and we can expect some non-UUs to join us as well. *No prior knowledge or experience with Buddhism or meditation is necessary.* To make sure you are on the mailing list, please email Cynthia Grzywinski and you will receive the latest copy of the UUBF newsletter (pdf). **June 2, 2018** will be the first meeting and will be held in our sanctuary.

Namaste'

(the spirit in me honors the spirit in you)

Margaret Circle will be held on on Thursday, June 7 at 1 pm. We will partake of our usual Joys and Concerns followed by refreshments. Shelee McIlvaine will lead a discussion based on the 7th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. Join us for this informative and helpful gathering.. All women members and friends are welcome to join us.

BOOK CLUB will meet at 7 pm on Friday, June 15. This month we will be selecting books for next year – September 2018 thru May 2019. Have you read a book recently that just blew you away with its humor, depth, or adventure? Please email your book selection to Barb Morell before that Friday and we will vote on our choices. All members of our community are invited to participate in book group meetings at any time – newcomers are always welcome!!!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Our next hosting week is
June 10-17.

Join us in this rewarding
volunteer opportunity.

~ *Barbara Morell and Debbi Dagavarian, co-chairs*

COME! BE A FLOWER CHILD, AGAIN!

As Margaret is stepping back from being the constant Chalice Table dresser, the altar area set up is being maintained by Colby who is asking for flowers or an arrangement be delivered each Sunday morning!

At the rear of the sanctuary is a calendar book for Sunday signups where **you can volunteer** to bring your garden's beauties to our Chalice Table, vase'd or not, then give them away or take them home to your table! **BE A FLOWER-POWERED CHILD AGAIN!!!!**

From Kathleen Hartnett, UUCSJS Bookkeeper

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 begins July 1, 2018.

Any contributions made between now and July 1 will be applied to this year's funds, FY 2017- 2018, unless you contact me to let me know you are paying towards next year's pledge. *Your contributions are welcome and appreciated at any time and the above message applies only to how they are recorded in our files.*

Please remember to drop your unwanted, unused, gently worn **foot wear** into the lime green bin under the coat rack on Sundays **any time of the year**. Less fortunate folks can sure use them!!!



Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782



June is upon us and it has come far quicker than I could have imagined. Has a whole church year gone by already? *How could this be?!*

Looking back at the year, there is much to be proud of. Together, we have welcomed nearly a dozen new members, dedicated a baby, had a successful pledge campaign, supported racial and social justice work in our area through our relationship with Asbury United Methodist Church in Atlantic City and Family Promise. We responded powerfully to white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, and observed a year's worth of holidays, holy days, and rituals. Our Living Nativity Christmas Pageant was a wild success, as was the whole year's worth of religious education programming.

At the end of June, I will start my vacation, returning to the office in August and to the pulpit in September. The worship team has a solid schedule of worship for the summer months that is designed to encourage members and visitors to share their own of spiritual growth within and beyond their experience with this congregation.

When I return in August, I will be working a 4/5 schedule, which means I'll work four out of every five weeks. There are other contractual considerations as well, such as study leave and vacation days that must be considered as well. I hope to have my 2018-2019 schedule prepared before the end of this year so planning can happen over the summer and people will know when I will be available and when I will not.

The Committee on Ministry continues to grow into its role as a combination of support for the minister and support for the greater ministry of the congregation.

Year-end transition time is a curious thing. I am nearing the end reserves of my own personal fuel tank, and very much looking forward to my vacation time to do some re-charging. On the other hand, I am thinking about things I want to do in our second year together. I am looking forward to coordinating a fledgling Adult Religious Education program. As much as I will miss Heidi Jansch, I am also looking forward to the new energy that a new face will bring

to the RE position. I want to offer a series of classes or workshops on end of life planning and find a way to help folks create their own advance directives and estate planning. I want to start a regular art and theology group that meets monthly to make art and talk about our personal beliefs and theology. I want to tackle the Policies & Procedures manual and bring it up to date (it was last updated in 2010.) There is a lot I am looking forward to doing. I can't

do it all on my own, of course, but I think that together we can achieve many of those goals, and more.

As the summer approaches, with warm, humid days, muggy nights, beach traffic and fresh produce, I encourage all of you to remember to take some time to recharge your personal battery packs. Breathe in the summer air. Get to the beach if you can, and dip your toes in the ocean. Hit the boardwalk and watch the people, or retreat to the dunes and watch the birds. Whatever it is that feeds your soul this summer, be sure to do it. And then do it again, if you can. Self-care is vital. Rest is necessary for sustained health. Take time this summer to rest. You are worth it. And you are too important to treat badly.

Blessings,

Rev. Dawn

Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle is
@queerpreacher

You can tweet about UUCSJS using
the hashtag **#uucsjs**

Search for Director of Religious Education

Position start: July 1, 2018

Salaried, Part-time: 15 Hours per Week

Role and responsibilities

Directs and leads the religious education programs including leading, inspiring, planning and administering a comprehensive program that nurtures the spiritual and religious growth of children and youth throughout the regular program year.

Qualifications and education requirements

Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and experience.

UUA credentialed, or willingness to become credentialed through the UUA.



Murray Grove Annual Gathering

June 8-10, 2018

If you don't want to stay overnight, you can still spend some fun time with your fellow UUCSJSers!

Where: Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway).

When: Friday evening, June 8 to Sunday, June 10.

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.

You can just relax or 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 the kids and other members of the congregation.

Contact Heidi Jansch for more details.

We are happy to announce that 6 people signed our membership book on Sunday, May 13.

They are:

**Dennis Bohn, Melissa Selleck,
Ivette Guillermo McGahee, Steve McGahee,
Arkady and Dylan Thompson**

Welcome to the UUCSJS beloved community!

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A Farewell to Children's Religious Education

June's arrival traditionally marks the end of the RE school year, and so it is time to thank those who dedicate so much of their time to keep the children's religious education program going all year long. The dedication of many people make Children's RE the success that it is. This year, appreciation goes to our lead teachers Karen York, Mariann Maene, Paul Utts, and Jessica Dunn-Safonof. Constant and reliable assistance in the classrooms was provided by TJ Jansch and Margaret Rea throughout the year, while the Children's RE Committee members provided assistance in the toddler room, classrooms and with our annual celebrations: Meredith Massey, Olivia Smith, Colby Tippins and Ronda Cluff. A plethora of assistants from the congregation have also donated their Sunday(s) to assist in our classroom during the year, and thanks are in order for all of you as well! Thank you!

This school year ending is bittersweet, of course, as I am completing my time as our Director of Religious Education. It was my own quest for an education about religion and different spiritual paths that led me to UUCSJS in 2005 and I am pleased to have been able to explore my own beliefs and learn so much about Unitarian Universalism and other traditions as I served the congregation by leading the children's program for the last eleven years. An added bonus of being the DRE was getting to spend time with the youth of this congregation; a vibrant group of talented and enthusiastic individuals who never failed to surprise me with their inquisitiveness, intelligence and one-liners.

At the time of this writing, the next DRE has yet to be chosen, but I plan to assist in their transition during the month of June, and of course, enjoy one more retreat at Murray Grove from June 8-10 before I move on. Hope to see you there!

In Fellowship,

Heidi Jansch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Long Term Planning Start-Up

*“If you don’t know where you’re going,
you will surely get there.”*

UUCSJS will surely change but we can *direct* that development if we overtly discuss our identity, purpose, and future and set priorities for our resources, our efforts and our programs.

On Monday, May 14, a committee began to work towards a long-term plan that includes:

1. A mission statement reflecting the will and consensus of the congregation and
2. A list of realistic, achievable, and measurable programmatic goals aligned with the vision and mission statements to be implemented over a three-to-five-year period.

Over the next five months, the committee will ask for your input on our mission and vision statements, our programs and your desire to make them work. We will ask you to complete a survey and attend a congregational meeting. Please engage with those efforts. They can help UUCSJS become the spiritual home you’ll be proud of.

If you want to be involved with this project, talk with or email Chairperson Kit Marlowe.

Summer Getaways with fellow UUs

UUMAC Retreat

July 8 – 14, 2018, at DeSales University, Center Valley PA. UU Mid-Atlantic Community gathers together for one week each year to build community and deepen our Unitarian Universalist faith through fun, friendship, music, dancing, learning and worship. For more info and to register, visit: www.uumac.org/wordpress/

UU Community Weekend (Labor Day weekend)

A Labor Day weekend getaway filled with fun, relaxation and loving community. Join members and families of Philadelphia area UU churches for this fun fest at Camp Canadensis in the beautiful Pocono Mountains.

MLUC has a minimum that they are trying to reach by June 30, so please register before then if possible. For more info, visit: www.mluc.org/community/community-weekend

A Primer on the Committee on Ministry

Values of the Committee On Ministry

- Represents the **entire ministry** of the congregation including both programmatic and personnel (lay and professional). It sees all leadership as servants of the congregation’s mission and ministry and all programs as intending to enhance that mission.
- Assesses the effectiveness of the entire ministry and its inter-related facets. Its perspective is the **big picture**.
- Advocates methods and processes that increase the **effectiveness** of the whole ministry.
- Values, weighs and incorporates the perspectives of both professional and lay leadership and is devoted to the concept of **collaborative leadership**.
- Assesses and performs with a posture of constancy relative to how the function of **each part affects** the function of the whole.
- It views ministers as **professionals** who need no special advocacy or relationship management other than that which they present out of their own self-empowerment (training, integrity, skills, devotion, wisdom, etc.).
- Being owned by the congregation, it ultimately **answers to** that body only.

What would you, as a member of the congregation, approach the COM for?

You have an idea regarding how the mission of the congregation can be better accomplished

You want to share feelings about how the congregation is working together effectively or not

You have feedback concerning the collaboration between various leadership roles in the congregation

The Committee on Ministry also works in concert with the Board or Trustees in the **annual ministerial evaluation process**.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Minister

Rev. Dawn Fortune (pronoun *they*)
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Music Director

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Board of Trustees 2017-18

Jim Gentile, Marsha Hannah Melissa Hutchison,
Charlie Roberts, Jessica Dunn Safonof,
Damon Smith, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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