



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



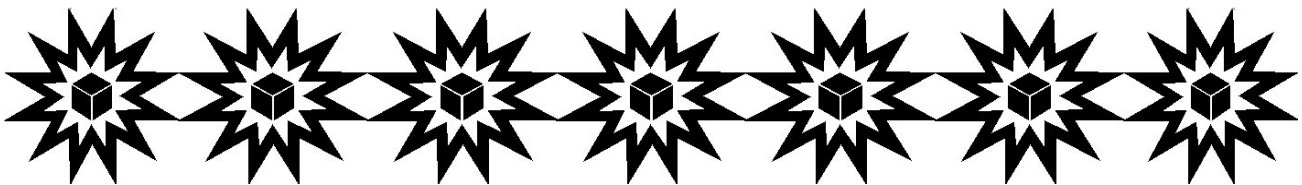
Volume 20, Issue 8

August 2018

## August 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.

<b>August 5</b>	<b>Humanism: More Than Mere Atheism</b> <i>Lay speaker Michael Cluff</i> Though the Humanist movement was born from Unitarianism, UUs may find it difficult to define. Michael Cluff, President of the South Jersey Humanists, will address humanists and non-humanists alike, sharing his thoughts on how Humanism differs from mere atheism, on the joys and concerns of being a UU Humanist, and more.
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Singing as a Spiritual Practice</b> <i>Lay speaker Barbara Miller</i> We will consider how singing creates community and how it heals and transforms us. This includes singing many favorites from our hymnals.
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Many Paths: Small Group Ministries</b> <i>Lay speaker Colby Tippins</i> How does participating in a small group ministry fulfill you in a spiritual way? Colby will share some of the ways many in our beloved community embrace meaning.
<b>August 26</b>	<b>An Interview With a Black Woman</b> <i>Lay speaker Shelee R. McIlvaine</i> To know someone we must be able to say what is in our hearts. Let's examine thoughts about women of Color from Shelee's perspective. Offer your questions, those you've had with family and friends and even those that are considered taboo. Let us get to know one another on a deeper level as we begin this journey in the safety of loving kindness.



# Buddhist Sangha Continues

Saturday, August 4, 2018

10 am - 12



*You need not be a “Buddhist” or have any experience in meditation to enjoy and benefit from our meetings!*

The South Jersey Secular Buddhist Sangha invites you to share in discussion and mindfulness practice in the Sanctuary at the UU Center. We are 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 gets 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.

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). An email to Cynthia confirming your attendance would be most welcome.

*Namaste’*

(the spirit in me honors the spirit in you)

**Margaret Circle** will be on summer hiatus till September. However, some of the members are continuing to meet at the usual time (first Thursday at 1 pm) for game time. Contact Julie Spradlin or Sue Parks for details. Come join in the fun!

**BOOK CLUB** will be on summer hiatus until September. Enjoy your BEACH READS!



Please remember to drop off your unwanted 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!!!



## UUCSJS NEWS ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

Most of you know that UUCSJS has been critical of the way Family Promise of Atlantic County has been run by its director. Now, after much consideration, we have determined that we can no longer serve as a host institution for Family Promise under its present directorship.

We appreciate the energy and commitment of our congregation in volunteering for the myriad tasks related to hosting families for FPAC. It is not fair to any of us to continue serving what has become a dormant enterprise.

Throughout the past two years, we have seen very little effort put forth by the director to recruit new families, only modest effort to recruit new churches, and no effort at all to recruit temples or mosques. As a result, there are currently no families being served by Family Promise of Atlantic County.

The final offense, however, was that in June, our last family was told to find their own housing for two weeks in July when no church was scheduled. Quite frankly, we were appalled by that degree of callousness.

We made this decision after much deliberation. If at some time in the future FPAC engages a new director, we will reconsider serving.

Deb Dagavarian, Co-Coordinator  
Barb Morell, Co-Coordinator  
Melissa Hutchison, President, UUCSJS

**Rev. Dawn Fortune**  
**609.289.5782**

*Rev. Fortune's musings  
will return!*

Rev. Dawn will be off on medical leave and then vacation until the end of July. They will return on August 1.

If you have a pastoral need in the meantime, please reach out to the pastoral care team: Theresa McReynolds, Helen Utts, Doug Dickinson, and Tracy Staab. If there is a pastoral emergency (death, fire, things where a minister is needed), they have the numbers to contact area ministers who have agreed to be on call in just such instances.



Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle is  
**@queerpreacher**

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

**COME! BE A FLOWER CHILD, AGAIN!**

Our Chalice Table and alter area set up is being overseen now by Colby Tippins. She is asking for volunteers to sign up and bring a flower or an arrangement for all of our 52 Sunday services year after year! There is a selection of vases on hand if needed.

You will find at the Fair Trade coffee table a calendar book for you to sign up as a FLOWER CHILD volunteer for an upcoming Sunday.



**Asbury Methodist Church**  
**Saturday Soup Kitchen**

**Second Collection August 12, 2018**

Since October 2016, the members of the Congregation's Men's Group have helped the members of Asbury Methodist Church, located on Pacific Ave. in Atlantic City, by helping them staff the kitchen on the third Saturday of each month. Each of these Saturdays, the church serves between 300 and 350 hot lunches to folks from the local community. The lunches are open to all. It is our hope to continue in this work. In April 2017, through the generosity of our Congregation's contributions, Asbury Methodist was able to purchase a commercial grade freezer in which to store food, which enabled the soup kitchen to reap savings by buying perishables in bulk.

Recently, our Congregation has been advised that Asbury Methodist is in serious need of financial assistance in running the soup kitchen on the third Saturday of the month. It costs about \$350.00 to \$400.00 per month to run the soup kitchen. This includes food, beverages, paper plates, utensils and other sundry items. The Men's Group is seeking for the Congregation to fund the entire amount each month so as to ensure this valuable work continues.

In June 2018, our Board of Trustees authorized taking quarterly second collections on specified Sundays to raise money, which will be used only to purchase goods to run the soup kitchen. The money collected specifically will be designated only for the purchase of the goods necessary for the work of the soup kitchen to ensure it is able to keep operating: e.g. food, paper goods coffee, iced tea mix, etc.

The first quarterly Sunday collection is scheduled for August 12, 2018.

Please keep this valuable work in mind when the collection is taken and contribute as you are able.

If any members or friends of our Congregation would like to become involved with us in working directly in the soup kitchen, please contact Jim Gentile. Your help would be most welcomed.

**UUCSJS POMONA ROAD CLEANUP #1  
for NEW "EARTH DAY YEAR"**



**SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 5  
at 8:00 AM**  
(before the service)

As many of you know, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) offers small stipends to civic groups who commit to picking up trash and recyclables on their adopted stretch of county road at least four (4) times a year between April 22 and April 22 (i.e., Earth Day to Earth Day). UUCSJS duly earned last year's stipend with five trash sweeps along Pomona Road – between Moss Mill and the far end of fencing alongside Lake Fred (where you can find an ACUA sign naming UUCSJS as Adopt-A-Road participant).

Our first cleanup for the *new* Earth Day cycle will take place at **8 AM on Sunday, August 5** (before the service). We're looking for a good turnout, because it's getting "pretty trashy" out there! If you've been thinking about giving road cleanups a try, this might be a good time to do so. It's light physical work and can be rather rewarding – both by being out in the early morning and by sharing this chore with others.

As usual we meet on the front porch just before 8 AM to pick up mandatory traffic safety vest and gloves and to avoid constant stooping, most use a grabber tool – with practice it's quite reliable. Wear sensible shoes and *please, remember to protect yourself against ticks – in whichever way you prefer.* (There will also be spray available at the start.)

We carry black bags for trash and clear for recyclables, and usually get to walk with a partner. We would love to welcome some willing new trash picker-uppers. Will we see *you* next Sunday? Say "YES"!! (Questions? See Judy Pereira or Doug Dickinson.)

***TL;DR: Many hands needed!!*** We'll meet on the front porch to pick up **safety vests, gloves, grabber tools and trash bags** — then walk along both sides of Pomona Road between Moss Mill and the fencing alongside Lake Fred...

**(RAIN postpones until Sunday, August 12)**

*"Many hands make light work."* – John Heywood (1497-1580)

**Summer Fun Continues**



Each Sunday throughout the summer, our children are treated to an all-ages activity or craft led by a volunteer from the congregation. Our activities in July included making sun-catcher chalices, designing problem-solving inventions, a nature walk and mushroom hunt, tie-dying t-shirts, and jewelry making. More fun is on the roster to finish up our summer program, when our Sundays will include the following activities:

August 5	Bug Hunt with <i>Paul Utts</i>
August 12	Fun Stuff with <i>Bud Smith</i>
August 19	Mindfulness & Meditation with <i>Nick Bonar</i>
August 26	Sign Language with <i>Ivette Guillermo McGahee</i>
September 2	Yoga with <i>Erica Onofrio</i>

Our regular Religious Education classes will resume on September 16, 2018. You can register for the 2018-2019 RE year by visiting the Children's Religious Education page at [UUCSJS.org](http://UUCSJS.org). The Autumn RE class descriptions will be included in the September newsletter.

Jessica Dunn Safonof  
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education



# The youth are at the gates

*Meet Levi Draheim, the 10-year-old Unitarian Universalist at the center of a landmark climate case.*

[SHERRI SCOTT](#) | 5/14/2018 | [SUMMER 2018](#)



"Seas are rising, and so are we."

In many ways, 10-year-old Levi Draheim is your typical Florida Space Coast kid. His hair and skin are sun-kissed. He'd rather be outdoors than in. Every moment possible is spent in the ocean. "It helps me calm down," he explains, and you can hear the longing to be done with the questions and back at play.

What sets Draheim apart from the other kids on Satellite Beach, the barrier island he calls home just south of Cape Canaveral, and what separates him from millions of other American children, is the fact that he is suing the United States.

Draheim is the youngest plaintiff in a landmark piece of United States climate litigation, *Juliana v. U.S.* The case, first filed in U.S. District Court in 2015, is expected to go to trial before U.S. District Court Judge Anne Aiken in Oregon this summer. At its center are Draheim and twenty other Gen Z plaintiffs from across the country asking the court to mandate that the U.S. government reduce carbon emissions to 350 parts per million by 2100. Not doing so, their filings argue, represents a violation of the plaintiffs' Fifth Amendment constitutional right not to be "deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" and the public trust doctrine, which holds the government responsible for the protection and maintenance of shared natural resources.

"We're telling them the adults haven't really stepped up and started doing things to help protect the environment," Draheim says. "We can't vote, so being part of this lawsuit is another way in helping things to protect the environment."

Read the whole story here:

[www.uuworld.org/articles/youth-gates-climate-lawsuit](http://www.uuworld.org/articles/youth-gates-climate-lawsuit)

## Annual Summer Walks



The Labyrinth Connection of Susquehanna Valley

Held at St. Thomas Spiritual Center and  
Outdoor Garden Labyrinth

301 Saint Thomas Rd. Lancaster, PA 6:30pm - Rain or Shine.

**Mid Week themed walks begin at 6:30 pm**

*Donate as you can give, a portion goes toward the care of the Labyrinth.*

Teaching, Music, Refreshments!

[View photos here](#)

## Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference

REMEMBRANCE,  
RESISTANCE,  
RESILIENCE



Thursday, August 2 to Saturday, August 4, 2018

**Pennsylvania Convention Center**  
129 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Details- <https://www.mazzoncenter.org/trans-wellness>

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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### Minister

Rev. Dawn Fortune (pronoun *they*)  
minister@uucsjs.org

### Music Director

Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@gmail.com

### Director of Religious Education

Jessica Dunn Safonof  
uucsjsdre@gmail.com

### Office Assistant

Matthew Honig  
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

### Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com

## Board of Trustees 2018-19

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Betsy Erbaugh, Marsha Hannah, Melissa Hutchison,  
Shelee McIlvaine,  
Charlie Roberts, Damon Smith, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**



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

**August 2018**

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