



# NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore

Volume 20, Issue 9

September 2018

## September 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><b>September 2</b></p>	<p><b>Transcendentalism: Not Just a Walk in the Woods</b> <i>Lay speaker Tracey Staab Catino</i></p> <p>Tracey Staab Catino, former English teacher, will explain transcendentalism, a philosophical and social movement from the mid 1800s. Most people think of transcendentalism as an escape from industrialism through nature. But, it is much more than that. Learn how transcendentalism relates to social justice and how it relates to Unitarianism.</p>
<p><b>September 9</b></p>	<p><b>Return Again</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>In a traditional ritual celebrated in many Unitarian Universalist congregations, we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new church year, bringing water from our journey to share in the common bowl, blending our stories and our spirits into a joined, whole community of souls.</p>
<p><b>September 16</b></p>	<p><b>As the Harvest Approaches</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>It is said that we reap what we sow. What are the things we gather now and how do they show what it was we planted? We look internally at our selves, our community, and our nation in this service.</p>
<p><b>September 23</b></p>	<p><b>The Spirituality of Abundance</b> <i>Guest speaker Elizabeth Terry</i></p> <p>Giving, generosity, and believing in abundance are the beating heart of Unitarian Universalism. Let's explore how practicing the Spirituality of Abundance can shape our interactions within our congregations, inform our connections to our neighborhood and community, and foster deep relationships with other Unitarian Universalist congregations.</p>
<p><b>Saturday, September 29 4 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Installation of Rev. Dawn Fortune as Our Called Minister: Mission, Ministry, and Mischief</b></p>
<p><b>September 30</b></p>	<p><b>Coming Home</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>On the anniversary of John Murray's landing in New Jersey, and the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore opening its building, we also celebrate the newly-installed first called minister. It is a time to consider the meaning of home – what is it, how do we create it, and what it means for the future.</p>

*About our guest speaker:*

**Elizabeth Terry**, a Congregational Giving Specialist with the Unitarian Universalist Association, is fascinated by the power of religious institutions to have meaningful impacts on their communities. She has been a witness to congregations who apply the principles of Asset-Based Community Development and Appreciative Inquiry and move their congregations and communities into bright and purposeful futures.

With over thirty years of providing training, technical assistance and consulting to nonprofit organization and congregations, her intention is to continue to be of service to communities of faith who believe that collective gifts of the head, heart, and hands can change to world.

Elizabeth lives in Wilmington, North Carolina with her partner, the Rev. Cheryl Walker, who serves as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington NC. For more about Elizabeth's fascinating background, check out <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/just-dont-get-arrested>

## Buddhist Sangha Continues

Saturday, September 1, 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 continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month: September 1 this month. Both curious newcomers and experienced practitioners are warmly welcomed. There will be sitting meditation, walking meditation, Buddhist teaching and a time for sharing our experiences in the practice. Dennis Bohn from our congregation will lead the session. Dennis has been a member of the Order of Interbeing since 1997 and is a Buddhist teacher, having received Transmission from the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh in 2011.

We are considering adding a second meeting date each month. Your input is very important! We will discuss this on September 1.

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 resume on Thursday, September 6 at 1 pm in the UU Center library. After shared Joys and Concerns we will enjoy light refreshments. Let us ease back into our presentations flow with Marsha Hannah offering up questions to stir our mind and stimulate conversation as we re-ignite friendship in Loving Kindness.

**BOOK CLUB** is back!! Join us on Friday, September 21 at 7 pm in the UU Center library. We will be discussing AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE by Tayari Jones. Newlyweds Celestial and Roy, are the embodiment of both The American Dream and The New South. He is a young executive and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. They are settling into the routine of their life together when they are ripped apart by Roy's arrest and sentencing to 12 years for a crime he didn't commit. A NYT best seller (and recently revealed as being on Barack Obama's [summer reading list!](#)). Betsy Searight will be facilitating the discussion. All are welcome to attend any book club meeting – newcomers are always welcome!! Contact Barb Morell for details.

There are copies of the 2018-2019 Book Club list on the board behind the Social Justice table in the lobby. October selection: BEING MORTAL by Atul Gawande!

### Walk a mile in my shoes

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!!!



## Narenj Tree Foundation

Narenj Tree Foundation sends full containers of clothes and other needed essentials to help the victims affected by the war in Syria. They have a Donation Center in Norristown, Pennsylvania where donations are collected and then shipped to the war-torn areas where they are desperately needed.



Besides clothing, toiletries and medical supplies, and non-perishable food, Narenj gladly accepts school supplies for the children.

**Colby Tippins will be making a trip to this Donation Center at the end of September, so include winter clothing in your donations!**

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



Welcome to a new church year!

It is good to be back among the good people at the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore. My summer weeks off were a little more eventful than I had anticipated. As you know, I was scheduled to have gender affirmation surgery (double mastectomy) in late June. There were complications in some of the pre-surgery tests that resulted in my surgery being postponed until I finally was able to get on the schedule for July 17, nearly a full month later than expected. I am pleased to report that I am healing at a pace that all the doctors think is appropriate, although that pace is a little frustrating for me. Healing is hard, physical work, it turns out, and it takes an enormous amount of the body's energy, leaving me quite exhausted after a day's light activity. Because of this, I have not been at the office as much as I would have liked during the month of August. I have been working from home, and attended a board meeting and a meeting of the Committee on Ministry, but otherwise, I have been forced to lay low and heal. I have learned that I am an impatient patient.

After Labor Day I expect to be back to a more normal work schedule and am looking forward to seeing folks. I miss you. I have been very well cared for during my convalescence – the care team managed the delivery of meals and volunteers to help with some basic home chores that I was unable to do. I daily marveled at how truly blessed I am to have such a caring congregation to serve. Thank you to all who brought food, helped with chores, and who signed the cards that cheered me in the earliest, most painful part of my recovery.

My body is healed enough now that I can hug people again without discomfort, and I look forward to being able to greet people with an embrace (provided that's their preference) once again.

The big news coming up this month, of course, is my installation as your called pastor. An installation is a special service and ritual that affirms and celebrates the relationship between the congregation and its minister. A not altogether terrible comparison would be to a wedding. This will be a time when I say words and make promises to the congregation and the congregation will say words and make promises to me. There will be guest speakers, visiting dignitaries, food, and, I am assured, mischief. It is a celebration of the special relationship

between a minister and their congregation during which we covenant to be in a relationship of shared ministry.

The installation will take place on Saturday, September 29, at 4 pm in our sanctuary. It's going to be a *big thing*, so most of the parking will be across the street at Stockton. Board President Melissa Hutchison is coordinating all of the necessary volunteers for the event, and I am looking forward to it with a full heart.

Blessings,  
Dawn



Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle is  
**@queerpreacher**  
You can tweet about UUCSJS  
using the hashtag **#uucsjs**

*The members and friends of  
UUCSJS are cordially invited to the  
formal  
Installation of  
Rev. Dawn Fortune  
as our called minister on Saturday  
September 29th, 2018 beginning at  
4:00 PM  
75 S. Romona Rd. Galloway, NJ.  
The service will be followed by dinner for  
guests. Please mark your calendars and  
plan to join us in this celebration.*

Want to help out? Volunteers will be needed to help with food, set-up, clean-up, home hospitality, and the planning of events for the installation.

Melissa Hutchison: coordinating  
Helen Utts: food  
Barbara Miller: home hospitality

## Connecting with our Universalist Roots: All About Murray Grove

September 16, 2018 at **UUCSJS** at Noon



On September 16, Louise Ile, Executive Director of Murray Grove, and Pat Radke, Murray Grove Board member, will visit our congregation to offer an informational session for members of our congregation to learn more about Murray Grove's vision, mission, and programs. This historical Universalist treasure is located in Lanoka Harbor just 45 minutes up the Garden State Parkway from our congregation. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Karen York (via email) or sign-up sheet if you are interested in attending.

### NOTICE of SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, October 7, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a **SPECIAL MEETING** of UUCSJS members will be held in the Sanctuary of the UU Center on **SUNDAY, October 7, 2018 at 11:15 am** (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of:

Electing two members to the Committee on Ministry

### "Love Has Already Won" at Rev. Dawn's Installation

Our choir will present this new song by Jason Shelton: <https://www.facebook.com/jasonsheltonmusic/videos/1592172970846408/> at Rev. Dawn's Installation on September 29.

If you would like to be an honorary short-term member of our choir, please join us at 9:00 am on Sundays leading up to September 29. All are welcome. Barbara Miller will work with you to find a way for your voice to fit in with the song, even if you do not sing a harmony part.

## Fall is in the Air

As we prepare for a new year in Children's RE, I would like to give thanks to all our summer volunteer leaders. Over a dozen congregation members gave their time, expertise, and creativity to make summer in Children's RE a fun, learning filled adventure for our children. It was a smashing success that the children will look forward to until next summer.

Our fall semester in Children's RE begins on September 16, 2018. Our classes this year will be *Spiritplay* for the Pre-K – 2nd graders, *Crossing Paths* for the 3rd – 6th graders, and *Heeding the Call* for 7th grade and above. Please visit the Children's RE section at [uucsjs.org](http://uucsjs.org) to register your child for classes. Read on to learn more about these engaging class offerings.

*SpiritPlay* is a storytelling religious education program. During each class, the storyteller relates a story while presenting visual cues (small objects or pictures) to the children as a way to help them remember the story. Included are legends from many different faith traditions, creative expressions of our Unitarian Universalist principles (introduced as “promises”) and tales of our UU ancestors.

In *Crossing Paths* our adolescents will explore various religious traditions with an emphasis on both the diverse forms and the diverse aims of the traditions. Each month the class will explore a different religious or faith tradition, including a visit to the faith community and/or interview with a member of that faith. From our beginning, Unitarian Universalists have looked to our sibling faith traditions as each having something unique to offer us and the world. *Crossing Paths* invites us to explore those unique gifts more deeply.

*Heeding the Call* is a series of workshops that offer a unique opportunity to engage youth in the critical work of developing skills as Unitarian Universalists committed to social justice. The workshops encourage youth to reflect on their own lives while also making connections to the lives lived by others. The youth are encouraged to become Justice Makers by learning together, listening together, laughing together, working together, and heeding the call together.

This important work could not be done without the dedication of our volunteers. If you feel called to participate in this unique spiritual experience, please let me know. We will be glad to have you.

In fellowship,  
Jessica Dunn Safonof  
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

## Save the Date!

# 14th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction

Saturday, November 10, 2018,  
6:30 pm

### What Can I Donate?

Our 14th Annual Service Auction, an important fundraiser for UUCSJS, will be held on **Saturday, November 10**. 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!* Fondue party? *No double dipping!*

Or, you can take people on a nature experience. White-water rafting? *Whoaaaa, yeah!* A birding morning? *Tweet-tweet!* A Pine Barrens tour? *Look out for the Jersey Devil!*

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 '98 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 Nancy? *Well, Aunt Nancy is in assisted living now and can't use it.* What about the unworn slim 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 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 the 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). If you make your own pottery, take heed – donate your originals; I'm the proud owner of many beautiful Marie Taylor pieces. If you're a knitter or crocheter, like Peg Gillies, 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. Housecleaning services? Guitar lessons? Surfing lessons? Full-body massages? Resume writing? Repair work around the house? Babysitting? Limo service to and from the airport? Raking leaves? 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 old 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? Or do you just want to share a lovely poem with others? Sponsorship forms will be in the back of the sanctuary with the donation forms.

Here's your chance!

Donate!

Donate!

Donate!



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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## 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)**

**September 2018**

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P.O. Box 853  
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