



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 21, Issue 4

April 2019

April 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.

April 7	<p>So ... What's it (worth) to ya? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>This is the last Sunday of our annual stewardship pledge drive. This is the time when we wrap up our fundraising work and begin to calculate what we can and cannot accomplish in the coming year. What bits of congregational life are most important to you, and what are you willing and able to do to support them? We will consider once more just how much this community means to each of us and to us as a whole community.</p>
April 14	<p>Sermon on the Amount, Part 2 <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who show generosity, for they shall receive great gifts. The stewardship season is over. The fellowship dinner was last night, and as the dust settles, we look forward and consider what lies ahead for the coming year.</p>
April 21	<p>Easter <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Easter and Earth Day coincide this year, giving us a perfect opportunity to consider the notion of death and resurrection as it applies to our physical world as well as our spiritual growth. Must there be death for there to be growth? Must something be destroyed completely to be born anew? What does that mean for our personal spirit, as well as our little blue planet? Join us as we consider these ideas and how they apply in our lives today.</p>
April 28	<p>Beltane – Theresa McReynolds</p>

**Special Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, April 7
see page 3**

**Fellowship Dinner
Saturday, April 13, 2019
6:00 pm**

Sign up in the lobby



Sangha in the Sanctuary

The UUCSJS Buddhist sangha will gather on Saturday, April 6, at 10 am in the sanctuary for sitting meditation, walking meditation, a Dharma talk and Dharma Sharing. In addition to sitting and walking meditation, in recognition of the upcoming Earth Day we will explore possible Buddhist responses to climate change. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

BOOK CLUB will be meeting April 19 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library. Our April selection is **WE ARE ALL MADE OF STARS: A NOVEL** by Rowan Coleman. A dedicated nurse, Stella finds comfort at the hospice where she works the late shift, especially since her husband returned from Afghanistan – cold, distant, and shattered. Stella helps the dying create letters that she writes. One rule: the letters are mailed only after the patient has passed. Deb Dagavarian will be leading the discussion and all are welcome.

MARGARET CIRCLE will meet Thursday, April 4, at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. We will begin with joys and concerns, followed by light refreshments. Julie Spradlin and Sue Parks will present the program. They will share their stories of growing up as gay women, and living as a Lesbian couple. Our questions will be welcome. Judy Pereira will provide refreshments.

Following the program, those who wish can stay and participate in a Chair Yoga class led by Faith Benavitch. The cost for this is \$5.00.

Spots are still available for 3 Spring Auction Events

Wild Edibles Walk – Spring Session – Sunday April 14, following the service, Damon Smith will lead us around the Stockton Campus showing us the available and safe wild mushrooms and other plants that we can eat. Cost, \$15 per person. 5 spaces left.

Sip and Paint – Friday Evening at the UU center Lounge – Arkady Thomson will provide all the materials and instructions for you to create your own work of art using acrylics. You are invited to bring your favorite beverage to sip. Cost, \$20 per person. 3 spaces left.

Wine Tasting at the Utts – Saturday, May 4, join Paul and Helen Utts at their home to sample a variety of wines. Cost, \$40 per person. 13 spaces left.

Instructions for how to sign up and pay will be at the signup table, or you can contact Betsy Searight.

SYRIA DONATIONS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Purging your wardrobe?

Sizes changed?

Probably won't wear it again?

Let's send it across the globe to support less fortunate lives. There is a bin in our lobby to collect basic human necessities all year long to assist in the lives of war torn Syria.

We are accepting **summer clothing** for all ages, footwear, bedding, medical supplies -- even outdated stuff!

Grab a pamphlet to learn more.

Another car stuffed with donations was heading to the warehouse in Norristown, PA on March 30.

This will be the 6th delivery on behalf of our South Jersey Humanist group to the warehouse, where items get packed and consolidated to be loaded onto a 40 foot long trailer, and delivered to the docks in Philly and heads to the Middle East.

If you might be interested in having your kids work with you at the warehouse for an hour or more, please speak with Michael Cluff or Colby Tippins.

Visit their Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/narenitree/.

Fellowship Dinner Talent Needed!

Our Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, April 13 offers more than tasty food and good conversation. Each year, members of *all ages* entertain us while we enjoy our dessert. If you have a song, skit, or dance to share, we will be your appreciative audience. Contact Barbara Miller.



SPRING IS SPRINGING!



Did you want to be a FLOWER CHILD?

PFFFFPH - **YOU ARE!!!**

Let Colby know if you want to bring your home grown foliage or flowers to the chalice table the following Sunday!

Rev. Dawn Fortune

609.289.5782

Stewardship

As March heads out like a lamb, we are in the middle of our annual stewardship pledge drive. Last year we had a successful drive, meeting our goal at the final fellowship dinner at the end of the drive. What a dramatic and joyful night that was!



This year, we are collecting pledges again, encouraging people to dig into their resources and support the congregation through annual pledges.

Why pledge, though? You might ask. Why not just take in what's in the plate and work with what you get?

Well, the answer to that is pretty simple. We need to set an annual budget in order to plan for the year. We need to know how much staffing we can afford, how many supplies we will need, and what we can afford to do as far as programming and worship. By asking people to pledge, we can anticipate how much income we will have and be able to make a budget accordingly.

Last year, the board increased my hours from 75% time to 80% time. That wasn't a huge jump, but it helped move us toward full-time ministry. This year the board hopes to increase my contract from 80% to 90% time. That would mean that instead of one week off for every four weeks I work, that I would have one week off for every nine weeks I am on the job. I have to say that sounds like a big improvement over the current schedule. I find it challenging (and I am sure you do as well) to work for four weeks, get up some momentum, and then have to stop working for a week. It throws a wrench into the schedule. I can't plan for meetings in a timely fashion if I am out of the office 20% of the time, and it is frustrating. I find this makes me over-work on my four weeks on, trying to get everything done in a shorter amount of time. This is neither healthy nor sustainable. At the end of that fourth week, I am exhausted and need that fifth week just to recuperate.

It would be a much better model for a number of reasons to move to 90% next year and 100% for the year after that. The ability to plan with a consistent presence would be enormously helpful, and it would prevent the mad-dash burnout followed by a week of crashtime cycle that eventually takes a toll on the ministry of the congregation.

If we do not reach our pledge goal, we will have to reconsider how we will spend our money for the coming fiscal year. That's just basic math. It is not meant to sound like a threat – truly, it is how I make my budget at home. If I can count on X number of dollars coming in, then I need to plan my spending accordingly. The truth of the matter is this: I am not willing to accept an increase in my contract if it means some other part of the budget must be cut.

I dearly want this congregation to move toward full-time ministry. I think it is totally possible, that there is room for pledging to increase sufficient to support 90% ministry this coming year, and I know it is a priority. I ask that you consider the role that this religious community plays in your life, and what kind of value you put on that presence. And I ask you to dig deep and give to a degree that feels like a true match to that level of meaning.

In shared ministry and stewardship,

Rev. Dawn



Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle is
@queerpreacher

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

NOTICE of SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, April 7, 2019 at 11:15 am

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a **SPECIAL MEETING of UUCSJS members will be held in the UU Center Sanctuary on SUNDAY, April 7, 2019 at 11:15 am** (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of:

1. considering a Resolution to implement a Gift and Endowment fund at UUCSJS. The policies and procedures for the Administration and Operation of the Gift and Endowment Fund require an amendment to the UUCSJS by-laws.
(additional written materials will be circulated in advance of the meeting.)
2. Other business that comes before the congregation

DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY

Tuesday evenings, April 30 to May 21

Discover your ministry is a 4 week course that allows you to explore your unique gifts and talents. The course is meant to help you identify your call to make a difference and put expression to that calling.

The course creator, Karen Lindley, describes the course as follows:

“The course includes discussion, personal discernment and reflection. Participants are encouraged to understand themselves as uniquely gifted with skills and talents that can be used on behalf of what they care most about. Process includes identification of skills and talents, values and passions for a better world plus planning how to combine all these into action.

Your ministry is about being the essence of yourself and an active participant in the ongoing process of making the world and all that is in it whole, good and right. Ministry is simply and profoundly the way we live our lives.”

This course will be offered at UUCSJS as part of the spring Adult RE program.

It will run for four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm beginning on April 30 and continuing on May 7, May 14 and May 21.

The topics for each week are:

Week 1, What are your gifts? “Each of us is uniquely the holder of gifts that can be given to/for our common and greater good.”

Week 2, Combining Gifts and Values. “The giving of our gifts is most meaningful if we have

great value, passion and a sense of call for where and to whom we give them.”

Week 3, Clarifying and naming your ministry. “If you see the mission as the direction and intended higher good, ministry is the instrument or vehicle to get there. The church’s role in your ministry is to support you as you define, realize, evolve and carry it out.”

Week 4, Mapping your Ministry. “When ministry direction is clear, an intentional map is important to keep us on track. Living out our map is not done alone, but with the encouragement and support of our congregation, our colleagues in ministry, and our families.”

Teachers for this course are Marsha Hannah, Colby Tippins, and Karen York.

A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary beginning in early April.

UU FaithAction NJ 

Plenary 2019

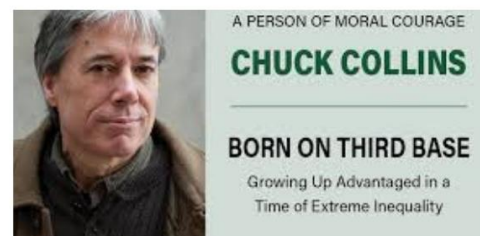
April 13th

10am to 3:30pm

Keynote Speaker : Chuck Collins

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
67 Church Street, Montclair, NJ 07042

Register at www.uufaithaction.org



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classroom Spotlight: Crossing Paths

Spring has sprung and our RE year is inching closer to the end. Thoughts of summer fun activities are beginning and we are all looking forward to another enjoyable summer, full of learning adventures for the children of UUCSJS. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to look back and highlight some of the amazing learning that has happened this year.

Our third through sixth-grade class spent the last seven months learning about the world's various religious traditions. Using a curriculum called Crossing Paths, the youth have not just learned dry facts, they have been able to experience the beauty and uniqueness of these traditions. This class has lifted up Unitarian Universalism's embrace and celebration of religious pluralism and has sent our youth out into the community to learn from the followers of these faiths. As a result, they have been able to build interfaith connections and grow their own UU faith.

Each month focused their learning on one faith tradition and the particular challenge and aspiration each religion has devoted its self to. They then experienced the rituals and culture of the faith tradition. The youth began their journey in our own congregation, deepening their understanding of

Unitarian Universalism. They have since visited a Jewish Synagogue for Friday evening prayers, a Presbyterian Church for Advent, and a Hindu Temple where they participated with worshipers in two faith ceremonies, were guided through a Mandir and its beautiful marble statues, and enjoyed an authentic Indian meal. They have welcomed guests of the Quaker and Islamic faiths to their classroom and asked them many, many questions. In the months that follow they will attend a celebration at a Buddhist temple and welcome a practicing Pagan to teach their class.

In a time when religious tolerance and acceptance is greatly needed, our children have become ambassadors of our faith and lived out our principles.

Our mission in Children's Religious Education is to encourage our youth to ask questions and explore. We seek to instill in them confidence as they set out on their unique spiritual journeys. And we hope to establish a lifelong dedication in our youth to the Unitarian Universalist community at large. We are so very fortunate that our youth have this opportunity here at UUCSJS and my heartfelt thanks goes to the volunteers and parents who have worked tirelessly to make this journey possible for our children.

In Fellowship,
Jessica Dunn Safonof
Director of Religious Education



Crossing Paths class at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Robbinsville NJ

Revised ACUA Recycling Guidelines

China and other recipients of the US's massive amounts of recyclable waste are rejecting our plastic and paper waste due to poor quality and unacceptable levels of contamination.



Therefore, guidelines for what Atlantic County Utilities Authority is willing to collect have changed!

Download a flyer here:

http://www.acua.com/uploadedFiles/Site/Disposal_And_Recycling/Recycling%20Flyer%202019.pdf

NO LONGER ACCEPTED:

#3 thru #7

Plastic items such as yogurt containers, clamshell food containers, and ANY plastics that are NOT like a bottle – i.e. narrow at the neck and wider at the base.

STILL ACCEPTED:

PLASTIC



#1 and #2

No food or liquid residue!

Please **remove caps** and lids!

Examples:

- Water/Soda/Juice bottles
- Milk Jugs
- Shampoo Bottles
- Laundry Detergent Jugs
- Ketchup Bottle

METALS

Aluminum/Steel/Tin cans and lids

GLASS

All Glass Bottles/Containers/Jars - **lids and caps removed** (if metal, recycle separately)

PAPER, CARDBOARD, CARTONS

- Printer Paper
- Envelopes (with or without windows)
- Cereal Boxes
- Cartons (milk, juice, broth) Also known as Tetrapak or aseptic containers
- Junk Mail
- Magazines/ Newspapers
- Telephone Books
- Cardboard (corrugated must be flattened and tied with twine)

DO NOT Recycle

- Aluminum Foil
- Batteries
- Broken Glass
- Bubble Wrap
- Cellophane
- Ceramics
- Electronics
- Frozen Food Boxes
- Glassware like tumblers, wine glasses
- Hardback Books
- Hazardous Waste
- Light Bulbs
- Mirrors
- Paper Towels/Napkins/Plates/Cups/Tissues
- Plastic Bags (return to stores)
- Plastic cups, utensils, plates
- Plastics other than #1-2
- Rigid Plastics (Laundry Baskets, Toys, Lawn Chairs)
- Shredded Paper
- Styrofoam
- Tangly Items like Hoses/Cords
- Waxed Paper
- Wet Paper/Cardboard
- Wire Clothes Hangers
- Wrapping Paper

NO Pizza Boxes

NO Paint Cans

NO Aerosol Cans

NO Single-Use Coffee Cups

NO Frozen Food Boxes

Mission, Ministry, Meaning

2019-2020 Annual Stewardship campaign

Karen York, Treasurer UUCSJS



We have held two stewardship “cottage meetings,” and at each one enjoyed some fellowship and an opportunity to get to know each other better. Sincere gratitude to Paul and Helen Utts, Melissa and Ron Hutchison for hosting these events and creating a relaxed supportive atmosphere for conversation. Thanks also to Barbara and Jack Miller for their willingness to host even though their event had to be cancelled.

While some folks may be uncomfortable talking about money, these conversations are important because roughly 86% of the financial support for our congregation and its programs comes from members. We do this only once a year so that we can plan a responsible realistic budget for the next year which begins July 1, 2019.

The “**Mission, Ministry, Meaning**” theme is connected to our current work around strategic planning and our goal to continue to increase Rev. Dawn’s salary support as we gradually move toward full time ministry. **Our financial goal this year is \$200,000** in pledge commitments. As of this writing we have **\$119,135** (60% of the goal) in pledge commitments from 36 (58 %) families. To all of you who have made your financial commitment we thank you for your voluntary generosity!

For those of you who have not yet made your financial commitment, pledge materials are available from Karen York or Kathleen Hartnett. We will be reaching out to members who have not yet pledged.

The **Fellowship Dinner**, a community shared meal, will be held on **Saturday April 13, 2019** to celebrate the conclusion of the Stewardship campaign. Everyone is invited.



Latin Dance Fundraiser Fiesta

May 11th, 2019
6:00 PM

Tickets: \$25 (\$5 for children)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
75 S. Pomona Rd.
Galloway, NJ 08240
uucsjs.org
(opposite Stockton University’s north entrance)

*Learn to dance
merengue, bachata, and
salsa with Kim Allen
and Jaime Santiago!*

Special Crafts for Children
Tacos and 1 Drink Included



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2018-19

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Pat Kennedy,
Charlie Roberts, Damon Smith, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

April 2019

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