



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 21, Issue 5

May 2019

May 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.

May 5	<p>Eat Your Veggies: Moral Authenticity in a Complex World <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Our Unitarian Universalist Principles are aspirational statements that call us to live to the highest kind of ethical standards. Considering our commitment to responsible stewardship of the earth, what do we do in our daily lives to support that value? The annual service auction sermon topic offering was won this year by Melissa and Ron Hutchison, who charged me with examining the moral imperative for UUs to strive to live a plant-based life to the extent that we can. Like all things aspirational, it's complicated. Join us for the exploration into the options before us to best live out our values.</p>
May 12	<p>Consent and Empowerment <i>Lay speaker Betsy Erbaugh</i></p> <p>Mother's Day was originally founded as an antiwar rallying cry by Unitarian Julia Ward Howe. In the age of #MeToo, #TimesUp, #FamiliesBelongTogether and #FreeBlackMamas, how do our UU principles call us to help create conditions so that all families can thrive? Betsy Erbaugh reflects on how the OWL program has shaped her parenting, work and activism. <i>Special collection for Black Mamas Bailout during the service.</i></p>
May 19	<p>How Do We Know What is True? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>How do we know what is true? How much of our perception is shaped and shaded by our own social location and lived experience? One of the questions from the Question Box sermon earlier this year, the notion of how we know truth is complex and fascinating. Join us for this journey of exploration.</p>
May 26	<p>Memorial for the Fallen Dead <i>Lay speaker Kit Marlowe</i></p> <p>Memorial Day is complicated for UUs. We mourn every soldier, sailor, or airperson who has died in military service, and recognize that our society would be very different, and not in a good way, if the USDA had no Department of Defense. On the other hand, we abhor war and feel shame over some US military actions. How can our observation of this holiday incorporate all of our feelings? Help us figure that out. <i>Children 8 years old and above are welcome to attend.</i></p>

Saturday, May 11, 6 pm
Latin Dance Fundraiser Fiesta
Get your tickets online! See page 5

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, May 12, 2019 at 11:15 am
New solar panels? See page 7

BOOK CLUB will be meeting Friday, May 17 at 7 pm in the UU library. Our selection for this month is **THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT** by Chris Bohjalian.

This is a thriller whodunnit that involves an alcoholic flight attendant, a murder, Russian oligarchs and the attendant's final redemption. Readers will be able to identify with the daily endurance of her profession as well as the author's well researched style. A story with several twists & turns. Mary Lou Berhang will be leading the discussion and all are welcome to attend. Any questions, ask Barb Morell.

From the Bookkeeper's Desk

As our fiscal year begins July 1, please note that contributions made between now and June 30 will be applied to the current year's income. Contributions toward pledges made in the new stewardship campaign will be applied to the fiscal year of 2019-2020 starting on July 1, 2019.

If your contribution is for something other than this, please note it on the message line of your check or on the envelope.

Family Song Circle

We will continue to meet in the downstairs lounge after service on the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome, even if you do not have a child in RE, or any children, for that matter. *If you are new to UU, this is an opportunity to learn some of our most beloved songs.* For the most part, the songs we will be singing are contained in the book *Come Sing a Song with Me*, available in the UU Bookstore.

SPRING IS SPRUNG!



Celebrate Mother Earth's glorious abundance!!!

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



Are you a Veteran? Help us Plan Memorial Day

On Sunday, May 26, we will observe Memorial Day with a service that recognizes our sadness over dead and injured soldiers, sailors, and air men (air women, too), our gratitude to live free of occupation by another nation, and our general abhorrence of war. Kit Marlowe asks every member or friend of the congregation who is a veteran of the US military, or that of an allied nation, to advise him on what that service should include. Contact him in person, by email, or phone.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

~ John McCrae, 1872 - 1918



Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782

Budgets, funding, and plans for the future

Greetings, Gentle People,

I am blessed to be able to write today from a sunny spot at my kitchen table, where a dozing cat supervises my efforts and occasionally demands some gentle attention, which often does as much to soothe me as it does him. Spring is here, the days are getting warmer, and last night was the first time I smelled that familiar scent of a summer rain on mown grass. The blossoms on my backyard fruit trees have come and gone, and now my irises bring splashes of vivid purple to my front walkway and bluets carpet my back lawn. I can feel the earth waking up in earnest now, from its long snooze through the winter, and it is a joy to observe.

Our stewardship campaign wrapped up a little short of what we had hoped to achieve. Board Treasurer Karen York has the specific numbers, but it looks like we came up with about the same amount we raised last year. The board is still committed to increasing my hours and thus our ability to do ministry as a congregation, so there will be some wiggling and shifting to make that happen. I will also have to commit some of my time in the coming year to finding new revenue sources for the congregation to fill the gap left by the stewardship shortfall. We'll get it done, but it will maybe not happen exactly as we had planned.

With that said, the board is proposing a budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year that will have me working at 90 percent of full time. Because there is no such thing as a 36 hour week of ministry, I will create a schedule that has me off duty one week out of every ten during the regular year. As is standard in my contract, I will also have vacation and study leave time to work into the schedule, but those should be much easier to arrange with a far more consistent monthly schedule.

My schedule for the remainder of this church year is a little challenging, so I beg your patience as we get through. You may want to make a note of this in case you want to see me before the summer break.

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 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UUCSJS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **UUCSJS** will be held in the **Sanctuary of the UU Center on SUNDAY, June 2, 2019 at 11:15 am** (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of: approving the budget for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year; electing members of the Board of Trustees, Nominations Committee, and Committee on Ministry; approve amendment to Minister contract; and transacting such other business as may come before the congregation.

Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Verification of Quorum (Proxy letters and absentee ballots must be presented at this time.)
3. Approval of the Final Agenda
4. Financial Report and Approval of the Proposed **Budget** for the next Fiscal Year
5. Election of members of the **Board of Trustees** (3)
Kit Marlowe, A t Large
Geoff Stuart, A t Large
Angela Wexler, Secretary
6. Election of members of the **Nominations Committee** (2)
Barbara Morell
Deb Dagavarian
7. Election of members of the **Committee on Ministry** (2)
Scott Senn
Katy Cardwell
8. Approval of amendment to Reverend Dawn Fortune's **contract** from 4/5 time to 9/10 time and increase in salary as stated in 2019-20 budget.
9. Additional items from the floor (if any)
10. Adjournment



OFF for May: May 8-12, May 22-26

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY

**Tuesday evenings, April 30 to May 21
6:30 – 8:30 pm**

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.

“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.” ~ Karen Lindley, creator

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.

Newcomers Welcoming Brunch

Sunday, May 19

Those new to UUCSJS are cordially invited to attend the **Newcomers Welcoming Brunch** to be held after the service on **Sunday, May 19 at the UU Center**. Hosted by the Membership committee and led by Rev. Dawn Fortune, we will meet in the downstairs lounge at **11:30 am**. At the orientation session we will talk about the role religion has played in our lives, enjoy lunch together, hear about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSJS history, discover more ways to be part of this community, and learn what it means to become a member of UUCSJS, when and if you decide to join the congregation. The orientation lasts approximately two hours.

The Newcomers brunch is the first of two sessions for prospective new members, which together serve as prerequisites for membership. The second session has been scheduled for **Saturday, June 1 at 10 am**, followed by an opportunity to “sign the book” on **Sunday, June 2**. Please note that there is *no obligation* whatsoever to join UUCSJS if you attend the Newcomers brunch and the follow-up session. That personal decision may be easy for some and take longer for others.

If you are interested in coming to the May 19 Newcomer Welcoming Brunch and don’t receive your invitation, please don’t hesitate to contact Rev. Dawn, Judy Pereira or Betsy Searight, or anyone else on the Membership committee: Debbi Dagavarian, Marie Taylor, Diane Dreby, MaryLou DeMaria-Berhang, and Peg Felix (or “ex officio” committee members Kit Marlowe and Helen Utts).

The 13 Indigenous Grandmothers

Have you heard of the 13 indigenous grandmothers? They are a group of indigenous women from all over the world who hold a REVERENCE FOR ALL CREATION, and are committed to preserving the world for the next 7 generations. They are amazing women who come together once a year to teach and speak and hold the vision for a peaceful, prosperous world, then they go back to their individual communities and continue the work. They all have their special concern and niche.

I have been following them for several years and I keep thinking how do we women of America become one of these grandmother /crones? Most of us have no indigenous lineage, some of us have no history of being taught by a grandmother, no rituals to have welcomed us into our tribe. So, I feel called to start a group called the 14th Grandmother. We as women

have throughout our lives had our initiations into womanhood. We have experienced pain and suffering as well as joy. I know I myself have certainly known heartbreak, sadness, loss, all experiences to take me deeper. I have studied and lived with indigenous tribes. So now I have started my own tribe, a tribe of grandmother /crones, who meet once a month on the last Monday of the month. We share what we are individually doing in our communities, we do a guided meditation to hold all creation in peace and love. We are new and in creation, if this interests you and you have entered into or are past menopause and wish to know more, contact me. You do not have to biologically be a grandmother, just willing to enter into your grandmother/crone energy.

~ Theresa McReynolds

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



**Did you ever want to learn to
dance the merengue, bachata,
and salsa?**

**Come to the UUCSJS Latin Dance
Fundraising Fiesta!
(Tickets on sale now!)**

**Professional dancers
will teach you!**

**All funds will go to
Allies in Caring.**

**Get tickets online at our Facebook
Discussion Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1355359614603656/>

Allies in Caring provides language-accessible and culturally affirming counseling, education, and advocacy for underserved communities.

Allies in Caring serves diverse populations, including Spanish-speaking families, deaf and hard of hearing individuals and people with developmental disabilities.

The **Latin Dance Fundraising Fiesta** will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 6-9 pm. Tickets are \$25 per adult, and \$5 per child. Tacos and 1 alcoholic drink are included. Non-alcoholic beverages are free.

Come and enjoy the fiesta! We will have music, a taco truck, fire pit, crafts, dancing, and fun for everyone! Children will learn special Latin crafts.

Buy your tickets now for the Latin Dance Fundraising Fiesta! Use the link in last week's Midweek Announcements to get tickets. If you are attending and wish to help out, please contact Colby Tippins.

If you are buying tickets but are not attending, you can donate your tickets so someone else can go. Please give them to Ivette, Colby, or Debby.



The **National Bail Out** collective is a Black-led and Black-centered collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our folks and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration. We are people who have been impacted by cages -- either by being in them ourselves or witnessing our families and loved ones be encaged. We are queer, trans, young, elder, and immigrant.

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classroom Spotlight: Spirit Play

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and felt the wonder of the vastness of space and the unknown that exists there? Have you ever wondered what God looks like? Or how to be brave when you are scared? These are big questions but they are also topics that some of our youngest Religious Education students get to ponder each week in Spirit Play.

Spirit Play engages the children in existential questions about life through a Montessori inspired approach to storytelling. The children hear and see a story told with manipulatives. Then they are encouraged to ask questions and learn and create together.

Spirit Play allows the children in preschool through second grade to learn in a unique Unitarian Universalist context and grow their faith while hearing inspiring stories that reinforce our seven principles and honor our six sources.

This year the children have learned about UU ancestors like Maria Mitchell, the first American scientist to discover a comet, and Henry Bergh, who began the ASPCA after witnessing animal abuse on the streets of New York City. They have played “Hide and Seek with God” and learned about the Good Samaritan. They

experienced different ways people and faith traditions celebrate light and hope. They discovered what happens when you only know a small piece of information like the people in the story of the Wise People and the Elephant.

Through folk tales from around the world, stories from various faith traditions, and well loved children's literature they have learned the importance of bravery and truthfulness. Along with many other things, they have learned how to honor their uniqueness and find others who accept them, and they have learned how to be good friends and build community.

Each week the children in Spirit Play have the freedom to wonder, to ask questions, to use their creativity to learn big things and grow their faith. What an exciting adventure! If you would like to help guide our children and learn along side them, please volunteer! UUCSJS is only able to provide this fantastic opportunity because of our wonderful volunteers. Hope to see you “downstairs” soon.

In Fellowship,
Jessica Dunn Safonof
Director of Religious Education





Mission, Ministry, Meaning

It is what brings us here and keeps us here.

2019-2020 Annual Stewardship campaign

Thanks to everyone for their voluntary generosity in making your financial commitments during our stewardship campaign. There were **37 new or increased** pledges totaling \$21,370 and **19 decreased** pledges totaling \$15,330. In the stewardship campaign to date, we have **\$177,825** in pledge commitments from **71** families. Based on these results, the Treasurer, Board, and Finance committee are refining the budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. The 2019-2020 proposed budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting to be held June 2, 2019.

~ Karen York, Treasurer UUCSJS~

**New Hope Celebrates Pride Parade, May 18,
11:30 am - 1:00 pm (meet at 11:00 am)**

Congregations of the Greater Philly Cluster have been participating in this parade for the past 7 years, and have enjoyed joining other faiths as we walk to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. If you, or your congregation would like to join us, please contact us in advance at welcoming@uufb.org (UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks) or find us in the staging area by 11 am on the day of the parade. For more info, visit:

<http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/new-hope-celebrates-pride-parade-2019/>

NOTICE of SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, May 12, 2019 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, May 12, 2019 at 11:15 a.m. (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of:

1. Considering a proposal for a **new installation of solar panels.**
2. Other business that comes before the congregation



Example of what the canopy could look like

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

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



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

Board of Trustees 2018-19

Betsy Erbaugh, Marsha Hannah, Melissa Hutchison,
Pat Kennedy,
Charlie Roberts, Damon Smith, Karen York

May 2019

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

