



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2019

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 2</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Why is it so Hard to Show Love? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>It is often said that the world needs love more than almost anything else, and yet is the thing that is so hard to express. How many of us were taught how to show love? Can we separate love from romance and sexuality in our US culture, so infused with the message that those things are hopelessly entwined? Another question unanswered from the Question Box sermon, this query needed its own sermon all to itself. Join us for an exploration of our own hearts.</p>
<p>June 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oh, The Places You'll Go! <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>A service of milestones: two of our youth will participate in a traditional UU bridging ceremony to mark their movement from children of the congregation to young adults in the world -- still connected to this, their spiritual home, but now equipped with the skills and support to venture forth and make their way. Rev. Fortune will reflect on what it means to move through life's milestones and offer some practical advice for people heading off on new adventures.</p>
<p>June 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A Celebration of New Jersey Through Music <i>Guest speaker Valerie Vaughn</i></p> <p>Plan to be entertained and moved by the lovely voice and powerful lyrics of singer-songwriter Valerie Vaughn, a south Jersey native. Dubbed New Jersey's Troubadour, she will perform original songs celebrating NJ.</p>
<p>June 23</p> <p>Murray Grove weekend</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LGBTQ Pride: Stonewall After 50 Years <i>Led by Interweave</i></p> <p>In 1969, patrons at the Stonewall Inn nightclub in Greenwich Village fought back when police tried to arrest them for congregating in a place known to be frequented by homosexuals. They fought back each night for a week, causing riots that coincided with last call at area gay bars. This uprising marked what is commonly understood to be the beginnings of the modern LGBTQ liberation movement and is celebrated with pride parades worldwide. Members of the UUCSJS chapter of Interweave, the UU LGBTQ member group, will share their experiences of living as queer people in our community.</p>
<p>June 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffeehouse Worship <i>Led by Barbara Miller</i></p> <p>UUCSJS Music Director Barbara Miller will coordinate a coffeehouse style worship service with musicians and words to heal and inspire.</p>



Buddhist Sangha

The venerable Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, described sangha as:

“a community of friends practicing the dharma together in order to bring about and to maintain awareness. The essence of a sangha is awareness, understanding, acceptance, harmony and love.”

The Buddhist Sangha affords members ways to practice mindfulness, compassion and awareness through: guided, sitting and walking meditation; dharma talks (aka the teachings); and dharma sharing while practicing deep and mindful listening.

The Buddhist Sangha meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 am for two hours at the UUSJS Center in the Sanctuary.

Whether you're new to Buddhism or a seasoned practitioner, you are welcome.

“When you allow yourself to be in a sangha the way a drop of water allows itself to be in a river, the energy of the sangha can penetrate into you, and transformation and healing will become possible.” ~ Thich Nhat Hanh

BOOK CLUB will be meeting on Friday, June 21 at 7 pm in the UU Center library. This month we will be discussing UNSHELTERED by Barbara Kingsolver. Set in Vineland, this is the story of two families, living in two different centuries, at the corner of Sixth and Plum, as they navigate the challenges of surviving a world in the throes of major cultural shifts. Both Willa and Thatcher come to realize that though the future is uncertain, even unnerving, shelter can be found in the bonds of kindred family and friends and in the strength of the human spirit. Diane Dreby will be leading the discussion and all are welcome to attend.

MARGARET CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, June 6 at 1 pm in the UU Center downstairs lounge. Kim Trotto will present the program on "witty women." She will read comments on various topics by several women, then talk about two of her favorite wits, Dorothy Parker and Joan Rivers. Come prepared to laugh. Refreshments will be provided by Arlene Yacka.

Walk the Walk

Let's not just talk the talk, but embrace a moment of conscientiousness. Practice bringing in re-usable bags to our building, instead of plastic. And remember, *bottle caps* are not recyclable – toos 'em in the trash.

Ongoing Syria Collection

Bring to our building any current season clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, and any medical items that you can donate and place in the box for Syria.

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.

Key Agenda Items

- Election of members of the **Board of Trustees** (3)
Kit Marlowe, A t Large
Geoff Stuart, A t Large
Angela Wexler, Secretary
- Election of members of the **Nominations Committee** (2)
Barbara Morell, Deb Dagavarian
- Election of members of the **Committee on Ministry** (2)
Scott Senn, Katy Cardwell
- 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.



Allies in Caring Update!

The UUCSJS Allies in Caring Team thanks everyone who attended the Latin Dance Fundraiser Fiesta on May 11 and everyone who donated to it!

After expenses, our generous congregation netted \$1,305 for Allies in Caring. Thank you to all who care about this fine organization!



Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782



Gentle People,

Summer has launched itself upon us with vigor in these last weeks of May, and the weeks ahead promise more sunshine and hot weather.

General Assembly (GA) begins in two weeks in Spokane, Washington, where Unitarian Universalists from the United States and Canada will gather to do the official business of the denomination. I am honored to be leading worship on Saturday evening the 22nd (7 to 8:30 pm), which you will be able to watch via live-stream on the internet if you would like. My speaking part is only about 5 minutes, but I plan to make those five minutes count for as much as I can.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 19-23. More info: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

While at GA, I will attend a luncheon hosted by the folks behind the Wake Now Our Vision program to celebrate the generosity of the congregation in Shelter Rock, NY, that is funding the program. For those who are new or who might not have heard of it, the UUA, through a grant from the philanthropic work of the Shelter Rock UU Congregation, offered a matching funds program to encourage legacy giving to congregations and UU organizations. Legacy giving is giving that happens after a person has died, when their assets are disbursed according to their will. The Wake Now Our Vision program provided 10 percent immediate matching funds to organizations that people named in their wills up to \$10,000 per donor. So someone who leaves \$20,000 to the congregation or another UU organization in their will would qualify for that congregation or organization to receive \$2,000 in matching funds which will be

distributed later this year. The UUCSJS was one of the most successful congregations to participate in the campaign, bringing in over a half-million dollars in pledged gifts, and qualifying the congregation to receive in the neighborhood of \$52,000 in unrestricted matching funds. The UUA Giving people asked me to speak at the luncheon about our participation in the program and what the coming windfall might mean for our future. I am delighted to be representing us in this way.

There is still time for those who are interested to register to be delegates to the General Assembly. I believe the UUCSJS qualifies for two delegates, besides me (an automatic delegate because I'm a minister serving the congregation). If you are a delegate, you can participate from home via live stream on the computer, even making comments and asking questions during the plenary sessions and casting votes from home. It is a fascinating exercise in our democratic process: imperfect, but holy and genuine. Please see me or Melissa Hutchison for more details on how to be a delegate.

General Assembly next year will be in Providence, RI. I would love to see a large group of members from the UUCSJS attend and participate in the workshops and plenary sessions. Let's keep thinking and talking about that!

After I return from GA, I will begin my summer break. I have the last week of June off as one of my regular weeks off, and then will take July off to do some vacation things and some reading and studying up for the coming church year. While I am away during that time, I will not be answering emails or phone calls until I return to the office on August 1.

Worship over the summer will include several special music-based services, some guest ministers from other parts of the country, and services led by groups and committees from within the UUCSJS. I will return to the pulpit again in September, after Labor Day weekend.

I wish you all a blessed and restful summer.

Peace,

Rev. Dawn

Dawn is OFF June 26-30
June 23 - on duty but AWAY at General Assembly



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

UUCSJS Annual Murray Grove Retreat

Hosted by the Children's
RE Committee



Our Annual Murray Grove Retreat will be held this year from Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23, 2019. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots. Check out their website (murraygrove.org) for more information about this wonderful place!

Friday night we will have a BBQ and potluck dinner and campfire.

Saturday we will enjoy an indoor potluck, family style following a day spent relaxing and having fun.

Sunday will include a pop-up chapel service led by the children. Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event!

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$25 per adult and \$10 per child per night (babies under 2 are free). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can't join us for the full weekend, please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day (a \$10 per-person day-fee is gratefully accepted.)

If you would like to attend or need more information please see Jessica Dunn Safonof or email uucsjsdre@gmail.com. Signup sheets will be available on Sunday mornings or you can sign up online at signupgenius.com - signup search uucsjsdre@gmail.com "Murray Grove Family Retreat." Hope to see you there!

**Letter to the Congregation
from Melissa Hutchison, President,
UUCSJS Board of Trustees
May 23rd, 2019**

Fellow Congregants,

I am writing this letter to you to update you on a recent incident that happened at the UU Center.

Sometime early in the AM on May 3rd, 2019, someone stole multiple (four) security cameras from the outside of our building. Our large rainbow flag was also stolen, and an attempt was made to deface our Black Lives Matter sign. No one noticed that anything was amiss until Monday, May 6th, when Kathleen Hartnett entered the building for her work shift that day. There have been several attempts to remove our rainbow flags, some successful and some not, some prior to and some following the theft of the cameras. The local Galloway police were notified, and an incident report was filled out. A detective was assigned to the case, and was given information from Kathleen, Ronda Cluff, and myself. Video footage from our security cameras was viewed by staff as well as by the detective, and the only image that was detected was an image of a gloved hand. Because there were no images of a person or of a car, the likelihood of the suspect being apprehended is slim.

To be clear, there were no breaches in the existing security system; there were no attempts made to enter the building. There was no "break-in", and the alarm system to alert us to motion in the building or opening of various doors was working. We did not notice that the cameras were down until later as they are not tied into our central building alarm system. The outside cameras that we had been using were purchased by a UUCSJS member, and installed by other members of the congregation. Up until they were stolen, the outside cameras were functioning as originally intended. They are not linked to the Schuler inside alarm system.

Since the incident, the board of directors, Rev Dawn, staff, and several UUCSJS members have had conversations about the status of our existing security system, and we have been working on options to improve our security of the UU building. We have used Schuler Security system for several years, and they operate and maintain the security system that is inside our building. Schuler was invited to come out to the UU Center to assess our needs for security outside the building. On their most recent visit, Schuler advised that we wait to replace our outside rainbow flag until we have made a more comprehensive security plan. We fully intend to replace the rainbow flag as soon as possible.

We expect to get a quote from Schuler Security sometime in the next several days, and we will also seek competing bids from other security companies, if warranted. We believe that the issues involved here are important to many of our congregants and I will be available to discuss any questions that anyone has this coming Sunday, May 26th, after services.

In Gratitude,
Melissa Hutchison

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2018-19

Betsy Erbaugh, Marsha Hannah, Melissa Hutchison,
Pat Kennedy,
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June 2019

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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