



# NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore

Volume 21, Issue 9

September 2019

## 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 1</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>The Importance of Our Unitarian Universalist Faith</b> <i>Guest minister Rev. Mark Kiyimba</i></p> <p>UUCSJS last welcomed Rev. Mark Kiyimba to our area in July 2014, not long after Uganda had passed an anti-homosexuality law, and traveled the U.S. to spread the word about the threatening climate in Uganda and many other parts of Africa that endangered lives. He also is very active in facilities and services for children orphaned by HIV or who have HIV. Come hear what Rev Kiyimba is all about today.</p>
<p><b>September 8</b> <i>Workshop with David Pyle</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Welcome Back to Community</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Ingathering as celebrated by Unitarian Universalist congregations in North America is a time of gathering after a summer's time away. We share a ritual that brings together water from places we've been or that are meaningful to us, and we recommit to being in community with one another. Ours is a covenanted faith, and it is worthwhile to revisit our covenant and recommit to the thing that holds us together as a community.</p>
<p><b>September 15</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Freely Gathered</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>Bound not by creed, but by covenant, the notion of a covenanted community is sometimes difficult to grasp. So much of our lives is governed by rules and laws and contracts, but a covenant is different in some fundamental ways. Join us as we explore the unique way that members of Unitarian Universalist Congregations form and maintain the complex relationship of "covenant."</p>
<p><b>September 22</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>The Poetry of the Tao Te Ching</b> <i>Lay Speaker Debbi Dagavarian</i></p> <p>Does the Tao Te Ching's beauty and simple wisdom come from the 6th century BCE's Lao Tzu, or from the scholars who translated it? In this service, we will look at some of the poetic translations of the Tao Te Ching, and discover what the Tao offers us in the present.</p>
<p><b>September 29</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Hold On (Loosely)</b> <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>The magical of covenants is that they leave room for human error and forgiveness. As humans, we make mistakes, poor decisions, and bad choices. As members of a covenanted community, we commit ourselves to remaining in relationship. But what happens when someone will not or cannot abide by the shared covenant? How do we remain open to relationship, uphold our values, as well as maintain healthy boundaries? Join us as we explore this rich topic.</p>

**Save the Date!**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Service Auction  
Saturday, November 16**

## About our guest speakers

**Rev. Mark Kiyimba** is a Ugandan Unitarian Universalist minister and activist for LGBT rights in Uganda. He founded and leads the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kampala, Uganda; the church runs an orphanage and a school for children infected with HIV/AIDS and who have lost parents to the disease.

He came to prominence as a vocal opponent of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill. In 2010, he organized a conference (held on February 14) called "Standing on the Side of Love: Reimagining Valentine's Day", to protest the bill. He has taken his opposition to the United States, seeking support for his mission. The National Education Association awarded him its 2012 Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights. The award is presented to an individual whose activities in human rights significantly impact education and the achievement of equal opportunity for those facing discrimination.

(Virginia Uribe was a high school teacher and counselor and a leader in the movement to improve the lives of gay and lesbian youth. In 1984, she founded California's Project 10, the first school-based dropout prevention program for students facing sexual orientation discrimination and harassment. achievement of equal opportunity for those facing discrimination.)

### September 8 Workshop after service

Rev. David Pyle of the UU Central East Region will join us for an after-worship workshop on September 8 to explore how we make decisions as a congregation and how those decisions are communicated. *Lunch and child care will be provided.* Join us!

**BOOK CLUB** will meet Friday, September 20 at 7 pm in the UU Center library. The selection for September is *WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING* by Delia Owen, and Debbi Dagavarian will be leading the discussion.

**MARGARET CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, September 5, at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. We will begin with joys and concerns, followed by light refreshments.

Kim Trotto, one of our members who is an artist, will present the program. She plans speak of Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1656), a baroque artist, whom Kim considers to have the best depictions of women of that era. Kim will show some of her work and discuss her life, including her testimony against her rapist, rare bravery for her time -- or even ours.

Refreshments will be provided by Maxine Blumenthal.

## President's Corner

"Summer's lease hath all too short a date."  
~ William Shakespeare

Every Memorial Day I feel like we have the longest time to enjoy the summer, but then when Labor Day looms, it always seems like summer went by so quickly! September marks the start of the school year for some but with the water ceremony it also marks the start of our church year at UUCSJS. I'm especially looking forward to our all congregational workshop with David Pyle on September 8. The board has been working hard to address congregational concerns regarding safety & security, decision making, and how we present ourselves to the outside community.

I'm also excited to move forward with some of the initiatives suggested by our new long range plan. Thanks again to Kit Marlowe and the long range planning team for their countless hours working on this project. In the spirit of our covenant, the board is also continuing to work on ways to increase our communication with the congregation and to use transparency in our decision-making processes. As always, your feedback is welcome.

Thanks, and I'll see you at the water service,

Melissa Hutchison, Board President

### All Ages FUN Event

## GAME NIGHT

Hosted by the Children's RE Committee  
Bring your favorite board games to play  
Enjoy light refreshments and fellowship

Friday, September 13

6:30 pm

In the Sanctuary

### Hoodies Needed!

We are looking for gently used hooded sweatshirts, in very good condition.

They will benefit the students of Eagle Academy, an Alternative High School in Egg Harbor Township. **All styles & sizes** for both **boys and girls** will be graciously accepted. Please place your donation in a bag, label it, & place it under the coat rack, or just give it directly to **Bud Smith**.



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

Returning to community –  
We're expecting you!

September is upon us and with it comes all of the expected fall rituals: the beginning of the academic year, the ripening and harvest of gardens large and small, leaves fall to the ground where they crunch underfoot, and congregations gather again to begin another year of worship and ministry.



I am so glad to serve a congregation that is mindful of accessibility and inclusion. While I was at General Assembly in Spokane in June, I had the chance to speak to members of the Shelter Rock UU Congregation, which had financed the Wake Now Our Vision program to promote legacy giving to UU congregations and institutions. I told them about how you built our marvelous building intentionally accessible, with no barrier steps to get through the front doors, how there is an elevator, accessible rest rooms, non-gendered rest rooms, and a handful of other features to make people welcome. In the time since I've been here, we've continued that effort, by providing a changing table in one of the upstairs restrooms and by strategizing ways to improve our sound system to better serve those who are hard of hearing. We're not there yet, but we've got some ideas to think about when the money comes available.

There is a great article in the News & Blog section of the UUCER website that talks about how important it is for people to know that they were expected and made welcome. It is written by my colleague Evin Carvill Ziemer and is worth checking out. As you read, I invite you to think about ways we can continue to improve our welcome for new folks who arrive. <https://www.uua.org/central-east/blog/better-together/who-are-you-expecting>

Our Ingathering Water Ceremony will happen during worship on September 8, so remember to bring some water to add to the shared bowl. The water can be from any source that is significant to you – be that your kitchen faucet or from a melting glacier in Iceland. Everyone will be invited to add their water to the mix, and water will be available for those who might forget to bring some.

After worship on September 8, Rev. David Pyle of the UU Central East Region will join us to talk about how we communicate, make decisions as a congregation, and how we handle conflict and disagreements. No group of 110 people will agree all the time, and so it makes sense for us to talk about how we handle it when we disagree. The Board of Trustees is committed to offering transparency in their leadership process, and so this discussion will include aspects of that work as well.

Lunch will be served and child care provided. I expect the session to last until 2 or 3 in the afternoon.

I am excited to be serving at 90% of full time ministry this year. For those who are new to us, I was called to be the minister in 2017 at 75% of full time. To accommodate that schedule, I worked three weeks and then had a furlough week, all through the year (aside from vacation and study leave). The second year, the congregation voted to increase my contract to 80% of full time, which meant I worked four weeks and then took a week of furlough time. It was better, but still challenging when it came to schedules and meetings and the like. This year I am at 90% time which means I work nine weeks and then take a furlough week. The general plan is to bring me up to full time for next year. We've got some goals to hit in order to make that happen, but there is a lot of good energy and great people who are working to make this happen. There is a Chalice Lighter Grant that the congregation has applied for, and we are seeking additional revenue streams to augment our very generous pledge numbers. I will also be focusing on doing more outreach this year in order to elevate our profile in the community and to attract new people. As ever, I am always eager to hear new ideas if you've got them – please reach out and let's talk about them.

My weekly schedule this year will be as it has been before: I work from Wednesday to Sunday, and take Monday and Tuesday as my sabbath. On those days I don't check email or phone messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, please reach out to a board member or to the caring team\* and they will get in touch with me. If you want to meet with me to discuss something that is on your heart or mind, please get in touch via email ([minister@uucsjs.org](mailto:minister@uucsjs.org)) or by phone or text at my cell: 609-289-5782. I can meet you outside the office if that works better for you, and I am available for home pastoral visits for folks who have challenges getting out.

I am excited about all that the year will bring to us and look forward to seeing folks again. I return to the pulpit on September 8 and my schedule for September looks like this:

- Sept 4-8 on duty
- Sept 11-15 on duty
- Sept 18-22 furlough week
- Sept 25-29 on duty

Blessings,  
Rev. Dawn



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

\* See page x for Caring Team info

## *Save the Date!*

# **Saturday, November 16 - 6:30 pm 15th Annual Service Auction**

### **What Can I Donate?**

Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Service Auction, an important fundraiser for UUCSJS, will be held on **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Thelma? Well, Aunt Thelma is in assisted living now and can't use it. What about the unworn slim jeans you bought for yourself last summer? Hmm, 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 an ad for your business in the Auction catalog. 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!

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## ***Unsold 2018 Auction Events available in September***

To register and pay, visit the signup table in the sanctuary where you will find instructions.

### **Thin Place Farm Tour**

Join Meredith and Jason at Thin Place Farm for an educational agricultural experience. They will go over the workings of their permaculture farm through the use of demonstrations.

**Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019**

**(Rain date: September 28)**

**Place: Thin Place Farm in Hammonton**

**Price: \$15 per person: 5 offers remaining**

### **Backyard Brews**

Brew some beer with brew master Kevin Feeley and enjoy vegetarian chili and other fine foods from TJ's backyard smoker and grill.

**Date: **TO BE RESCHEDULED****

**Place: Jannschland – New Gretna**

**Price: \$40 per person 2 offers remaining**

### **Wild Edibles Walks**

Join Damon Smith in the fall as he leads a mushroom and wild edible walk around the Stockton University grounds.

**Date: Sunday, September 22, 2019 at noon**

**Place: Stockton University**

**Price: \$15 per person: 10 offers remaining**

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### It's time! It's time!

Summer fun is winding down, cool night breezes are blowing in open windows, the beaches are sparsely populated, AND our Religious Education Programming is back! We had so much fun this summer and I want to thank all our wonderful volunteers for sharing their passion, joy, and fun with our children. If you missed out on the action, no worries, you can still volunteer to assist leaders in our classrooms during the year. See me Sunday mornings to sign up.

Damon Smith, Karen York, Bud Smith, Kit Marlowe, Fred Safonof, Collette Baldesare Jones, Colby Tippins, Rev. Dawn Fortune, Denise O'Meara, Kate Vandershuere, and TJ Jansch - You all made this summer a great learning adventure and I just can't thank you enough. Hope to see you all back downstairs soon.

Each year the age groups for religious education change a bit and the focus of the classes change. It's always so exciting to unveil the new programming. So, without further ado, here are the 2019-2020 Religious Education Programs:



#### Spark

This year our youngest learners, those in preschool through age 7, will learn what makes a faith home and explore how and why we welcome others into our lives. In **Creating Home**, this fall the children will ask questions about the purpose of having a home and the idea of a home as a place of belonging. Through fun activities, observations of nature, stories of Unitarian Universalist heroes, and wisdom tales from many faith traditions, children will explore the sacredness and the beauty of hospitality as well as the gift of loving relationships that a home can represent. In the spring, the children will continue their journey with **Wonderful Welcome**, a Tapestry of Faith curriculum that seeks to help children welcome peers, neighbors, family, strangers, and even nature itself into their faith home. Children will learn how to identify, celebrate, and share their intangible gifts of kindness, love, invitation, covenant, and empathy to develop their sense of belonging to their community, congregation, and the larger Unitarian Universalist faith community.

#### Ignite

Children ages 8 through 10 will explore Unitarian Universalist's seven sources as they work together to discover truth and make meaning in their lives. This fall, using the **Love Will Guide Us** curriculum, they will ask difficult questions like "Where did we come from? What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures? How can we respond with love, even in bad situations? and What happens when you die?" Drawing on the wisdom of different faith traditions and cultures and their own

experiences they will explore together what it means to be human. In the spring, the children will delve deeper into fourteen Unitarian Universalist values using **Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Everyday**. They will explore the ideas of reverence for life, public witness, the quest for knowledge. They will learn how these values show up in their everyday lives and will come to see themselves as leaders of their faith.

#### Burn

More questions are in store this year for youth over age 11. With a focus on developing their Unitarian Universalist identity, youth will explore concepts connected to ethics, such as morality, virtue, sin, salvation, heaven, hell, redemption, forgiveness, guilt, and integrity. Youth will learn to accept, appreciate and celebrate mystery, ambiguity, and contradiction as part of human life and the starting points of religion. In **Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong** this fall and **Riddle and Mystery** this spring, youth will address such questions as "Why do bad things happen? Does God exist? What is the role of God, gods, and goddesses? Is evil or goodness within us and is it something we choose? Where do we come from? Where are we going? How can I know what to believe? and What does Unitarian Universalism mean to me?" Ultimately, the youth will come to appreciate Unitarian Universalist approaches to faith, morality, and social justice and learn to express their living faith through action.

#### Kindle

**NEW this year** - All ages, family faith development at home. It's hard to carve out time for faith-full family experiences. If you have felt overwhelmed by the idea of weaving spiritual exploration into the routine spaces of family life **Soulful Home** is here for you. All registered families will receive a themed monthly packet organized around eight family spaces containing ideas and resources to explore our Unitarian Universalist faith together. With family discussion questions, neighborhood adventures, playful activities to do together, stories for bedtime, and mantras/meditations/prayers to share there is plenty each month to create sacred space in your daily life. Additional resources and materials for Soulful Home activities are available for check out in the family lounge.

Soulful Home can be used by grandparents with visiting grandchildren, families not currently connected to our congregation because of scheduling conflicts or distance, or even adults who want to experience full week faith development at home. If you do not have registered children in our Religious Education program and would like to receive Soulful Home please email [uucsjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:uucsjsdre@gmail.com).

Jessica Dunn Safonof  
Director of Religious Education

# 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](mailto:uucsjsadmin@gmail.com)

### Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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

## Board of Trustees 2019-2020

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Betsy Erbaugh, Melissa Hutchison, Kit Marlowe,  
Martin Quish, Geoff Stuart, Angela Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – [newsletter@uucsjs.org](mailto:newsletter@uucsjs.org)

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

**September 2019**

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