



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 21, Issue 10

October 2019

October Services

Theme: Belonging

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>October 6</p>	<p>We Belong Together(ish) <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>In a denomination rooted deeply in individual freedom and integrity, Unitarian Universalists can experience tension between that independence and the very human need for deep connection. What does it mean to belong -- to a congregation, a town, a global community?</p>
<p>October 13 <i>Special Congregational Meeting</i></p>	<p>What Have We Wrought? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>On the weekend of Indigenous People’s Day, we consider the effects of exploration by Europeans on this continent and how those foundational patterns affect us today – in our culture, our government, and our spiritual practice. In the context of our monthly theme of “Belonging,” how do the descendants of colonizers make room so that the descendants of the displaced are included in our national conversation?</p>
<p>October 20</p>	<p>Samhain <i>Lay speaker Theresa McReynolds</i></p> <p>Theresa considers Samhain one of the most high holidays in our pagan tradition -- it is the New Year, and the time when the veil is thin between the world of the living and the dead. If we pay attention, our ancestors can return to visit us and give us help and advice. Theresa says, “in my house I make an altar to my ancestors, placing pictures and special mementoes of my beloved dead. I cook some of their favorite foods. I pack a picnic lunch and take my grandchildren to the cemetery, and tell stories of their ancestors. It is a special holy time.” You are invited to bring pictures and mementoes of your beloved dead for display on the chalice table.</p>
<p>October 27</p>	<p>The Passing of Time <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i></p> <p>In the season of Samhain, All Saint’s Day, and Día de los Muertos, we feel our connection to those who have passed from this world into whatever comes next. Contemplating loss and mortality prompts us to examine our relationships with one another and how we fit together in community.</p>



**15th Annual Service Auction
Saturday, November 16**



Sangha in the Sanctuary

The Sangha, one of the three jewels of Buddhist tradition, along with the Buddha himself and the Dharma (his teachings), form the foundational elements of all Buddhist thought. It is a deeply spiritual practice within a community of like minded (but not necessarily alike) people who seek greater awareness – to see things as they really are – and to more fully realize our connection to the interdependent web of all existence. The Buddhist Sangha meetings at the UU Center focus on group meditation, deep listening, and an accepting environment for sharing our individual truths. According to the Ven. Thich Nhat Hahn, “The essence of sangha is awareness, understanding, acceptance, harmony, and love.” Please join us for a sangha discussion, participate in some group meditation, and how (who knows?) sangha practice may benefit you.

BOOK CLUB will meet Friday, October 18 at 7 pm in the UU Center library. The selection for October is THE INVENTION OF WINGS by Sue Monk Kidd. Hetty “Handful” Grimke, a young enslaved girl in early 19th century Charleston South Carolina, and Sarah, the daughter in the wealthy Grimke household, come together when Sarah is given ownership of 10-year-old Handful on Sarah’s 11th birthday. We follow their journeys over the next 35 years, as both strive for lives of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke. Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented. Marsha Hannah will be leading the discussion.

MARGARET CIRCLE on Thursday, October 3, at 1 pm. Our program will be the celebration of all our members who have had, or will have a milestone birthday in the 2019 calendar year. A milestone birthday is one with a five or a zero behind it – think 75 or 80. Our celebrants have been given reflection- type questions ahead of time, and we are all eager to hear what they will have to tell us about themselves through their answers. We will be having a luncheon prepared by many hands. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Strategic Plan Talk-Back

On August 25, UUCSJS adopted a [new strategic plan](#) as a **working draft**. That means that members will continue to improve the plan. The Strategic Planning Committee will hold talk-back discussions at 11:30 am on the first Sunday of each month. The first session is on **Sunday, October 6**.

Please, attend these sessions to share your vision of how UUCSJS should be and become. It would help if your comments focus on how to change the plan we have.

NOTICE of SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, October 13, 2019 at 11:15 am
(immediately following the Sunday service)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a SPECIAL MEETING of UUCSJS members will be held in the Sanctuary of the UU Center

for the purposes of:

- 1. Discussing and voting on an amendment to Article VII, Section 7.11 of the Congregation's By-Laws. The proposed change has been brought to the Board of Trustees by members of the congregation.**
- 2. Other business that comes before the congregation**

Proposed revision to the By-Laws:

Article VII, Section 7.11: Limits of Power

is amended to include the following language:

"The Center and the real property upon which the Center is located is the property of the Congregation. Neither the Board, nor any standing committee of the congregation, nor any ad-hoc committee of the congregation, nor any groups formed by members and/or friends of the Congregation, nor any group of persons or single person have the authority to place any object or thing on the outside of the Congregation's Center, or upon the real property surrounding the Congregation's Center without the calling a Congregational meeting, at which a formal request shall be made to the Congregation to place the specified object or thing on the Congregation's Center, or on the real property surrounding the Center. At such a Congregational meeting, the Congregation shall consider the request. Any such request shall indicate the length of time for which the object shall be so placed. Approval of the request to place the object or thing shall be by a simple majority of members of the Congregation present at the meeting. No absentee ballots or proxy ballots shall be permitted to vote on the request. All ballots voting on the request shall be secret ballots as provided at Article VI, Section 6.4(b)(iii)."

Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782

Greetings, Gentle People!

The last warm days of late summer are waning, and I noticed this week how suddenly it seems to get darker earlier in the day. In a month, we'll be setting our clocks back and that difference will be stark indeed, but for now, I am noticing the slow, gradual creep of the season's change.



You may have noticed in September that I was preaching from the theme of "Covenant."

Monthly themes for the church year are a thing we're going to be trying this year to better integrate the worship, Religious Education, and Music parts of our community. We have subscribed to a resource called "Soul Matters" which provides readings and discussion resources, RE curricula, musical resources, and all manner of material to help congregations integrate the various parts of congregational life. Using this program, I can preach about "Belonging" during the month of October, Barbara Miller will have music resources to assist her ministry, and Jessica Dunn-Safonof will have educational resources considering "Belonging" for all of the various classrooms downstairs.

The idea of all this is to coordinate what happens upstairs and downstairs, and to provide a vehicle through which families can live into their faith more fully, all week long. If the adults hear a sermon about transcendentalism upstairs, the spirit play kids make chalices, and the middle schoolers learn about the rain forest, it can be a real challenge to connect all those things into a single experience everyone would recognize as "church." But if the parents and the children have common material to talk about, each having learned things that are appropriate and meaningful to their own location in the world, then that will (I hope) make the connection between family members and with the church stronger and more coherent.

There are additional resources as well for small group ministry discussions and for use on our social media profile. If you're interested in learning more, please get in touch and I'll be glad to share.

The monthly themes coming up are:

- October: Belonging
- November: Attention
- December: Awe

And speaking of December, Barbara Miller and I talked about the holiday worship schedule recently, and I think we will be bringing back a Christmas Eve Service on December 24. It will be a simple service of carols and readings and candles, and will be held in the evening. Barbara will also be offering a special musical solstice service on Friday, December 20, also in the evening, and Jessica and I are working to plan a multi-generational service (pageant?) for the Sunday morning of December 22.

My schedule for this month has me working every week, and in the pulpit on October 6, 13, and 27. I look forward to seeing you each week, and if you'd like to chat about something, please feel free to email me at minister@uucsjs.org or drop me a text or call at 609-289-5782.

Blessings,

Rev. Dawn



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

A Note on Caring

Did you know that our congregation has a Caring Team?

Every month a few members who take confidentiality very seriously gather to discuss our congregation members' joys and concerns, and consider what can be done to support those persons in their struggles. The team seeks help from others when needed.

The Caring Team will be displaying a box to collect gift cards in support of these needs. If you have an old gift card sitting around or would like to buy a ShopRite card at the Social Justice table and drop it in the box, you can help your fellow UUers. All denominations of gift cards are gratefully received.

If you have questions about the Caring Team or this collection, contact Tracey Staab Catino.

Auction Fever!

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

Now that you've made your donations to the **15th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction on November 16** – you've made them, haven't you? – let's discuss the types of auctions you're likely to encounter on Auction night.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is anything but! It's the largest of the auctions in that it includes events, items, services, handmade items and baked goods. It gets awfully noisy in what we call the "sanctuary."

Let's discuss bidding on the Silent Auction. Each item or event or service has a sheet on which you write your name and bid. Bid high, or check back, because someone may outbid you! If the bids are a fixed price, as with events, you win it when you write your name on one of the pre-numbered lines.

The "Win it now" price means that if you really, really, really want the item, you can write your name on the bottom line next to the "win it now" price and give the sheet to the table monitor. You pay that price – which is usually closer to the estimated value of the item – but that perfect item will be yours before the evening is out!

Live Auction

The Live Auction is when you get to hold up your number to bid on something as the auctioneer calls out the offered bids. This is the big time, the main event, the show, the major leagues, the cat's pajamas. This is when – unlike when you were in grade school and had to use the bathroom – holding up your hand could get you in serious trouble. But this is also the most fun part of the auction! Don't dare wave to someone in the front row, or you could be the proud, new owner of a tin birdcage.

Chance Auction

The Chance Auction is exactly that – all up to chance. You buy a sheet of tickets, and place a ticket in a small bucket in front of the items you want. Then, we pick a ticket from the cup, and if your number is picked, the item's yours.

Winning or losing is pure luck. Unless you stuff the cup with tickets that cost you more than the item would have cost at Target. And then you still might not win it!

And to those of you who believe that one person's junk is another person's treasure . . . get real! If it's your junk, it's my junk and it's their junk. If you donate something we cannot place in the Chance Auction, we will donate it to a worthy charity.

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON.

In ancient times, Samhain was believed to be the time when the veil was thin between the world of the living and the world of the dead. It is a time to honor our beloved dead... Do you have pictures or special things to remember you loved ones? Please bring them to place on the altar.

7th ANNUAL SPIRAL DANCE



***A ritual to honor our Beloved Dead
and dance the Spiral of Rebirth***

Sunday October 27, 6:30 pm to 8 pm

We gather to remember and honor our ancestors, our Beloved Dead, and all those who have crossed over. As we mourn for those we love who have died since last Samhain, we also mourn the loss and pain suffered by the Earth, our Mother. Yet even as we grieve, we remember and honor the sacred cycle of life, death, rebirth and regeneration, celebrating the births of our children born this year and our own vital connections to the Earth and each other, in which we ground our hope. The **spiral dance**, also called the **grapevine dance** and the **weaver's dance**, is a traditional group dance. It is designed to emphasize "community and rebirth", and is also used "to raise power in a ritual."

HONORING THE ANCESTORS

***DRUMMING, CHANTING, AND DANCING IN
COMMUNITY.***

**BRING DRUMS, RATTLES, AND A PICTURE OF
YOUR ANCESTORS TO PUT ON THE
ANCESTOR ALTAR.**

All ages welcome
Contact Theresa McReynolds for info.

The first Spiral Dance Ritual was held in 1979 to celebrate the publication of my teacher Starhawk's book *The Spiral Dance*. Traditionally the Spiral Dance calls upon the energy and talents of musicians and dancers, priests and priestesses. This is a participatory ritual which has become a central event in the Wheel of the Year for many in the UU community.

When we dance the spiral, young and old together, we remember and honor our vision and embrace the future .

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Return of the FUUN Event

Many of you may remember the Greenlight Coffeehouses of the past. Held in the sanctuary once a month, these open mic nights were a fun gathering of UUCSJS members, friends, and the community at large. There was music, there was coffee and snacks. There was fun! These events were hosted by the UUCSJS FUUN Committee. What this committee found was that planning, publicizing, setting up, hosting, and cleaning up for an event like this *every* month was a lot of work. They just did not have the time or the volunteers necessary to sustain it and it fell away. Every now and then someone will mention how much fun those events were and say we should start that up again. But, the time and volunteers never come.

The Children's Religious Education Committee is trying to change that. This group of committed parents and RE volunteers has a vision of UUCSJS as a true multigenerational community. A place where adults and children of all ages worship together and enjoy fellowship together. Where relationships are built and maintained in faith and in fun across all ages. Enter the return of the FUUN event. These events, held once a month on the second Friday, have the possibility of connecting our community in a new way. Thirty people of all ages attended the board game night held in September!

What a great start! But the RE Committee just can not do this alone. They are hopeful that other committees, groups, or even individuals here at UUCSJS will step up to host an event. If each group hosts one event a year there will be enough volunteers for a whole year of events. A whole year of multigenerational community fun! What a blessing that will be. Here is what you can look forward to:

2019-2020 Schedule of FUUN Events (*hosted by*)

- September – Board Game Night (*CRE Committee*)
- October – Halloween Dinner and a Movie (*Fundraising Committee*)
- November – Service Auction
- December – Christmas Caroling (*UUCSJS Choir*)
- January - *Your group here!* Email Jessica Dunn Safonof for more information or to sign up.

Hope to see you there!

In Fellowship,

Jessica Dunn Safonof
Director of Religious Education



Welcome
to the month of
Belonging

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 2019-2020

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

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

October 2019

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

