



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 05

May 2015

May Services

“We Promise... to build TRUST”

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 3	<p>DANCING into TRUST <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> ...how can you dance if your heart is broken? How can you trust if your faith is shattered? How can you live if you have no trust in life? Come, think on these things. It's Beltaine and our theme for May is TRUST. Trust me, if you can.</p>
May 10	<p>Everything Matters <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> Bring a blossom, or two, or several, to add to the community bouquet for this annual ritual. Cynthia's message will take a fresh and deeper look at the idea of "mother." All are welcome!</p>
May 17	<p>Getting from Grievance to Gift <i>Lay speaker Darah Walther</i> Along with the joys and happy times in our lives, we have all experienced challenges, sadness, pain and loss. This is part of our human experience. Our choice becomes how we perceive our journey. Will we just groan - or grow? Can we heal our grievances and receive the gifts?</p>
May 24	<p>In Whom Do You Put Your Trust? <i>Lay speaker Doug Dickinson</i> Trust your instincts, and trust one another by behaving with integrity in all our relationships. In whom do you put your trust?</p>
May 31	<p>Sacred Activism <i>Lay speaker Theresa McReynolds</i> Sacred Activism is a transforming force of compassion-in-action that is born of a fusion of deep spiritual knowledge, courage, love, and passion, with wise radical action in the world. The large-scale practice of Sacred Activism can become an essential force for preserving and healing the planet and its inhabitants. When the deepest and most grounded spiritual vision is married to a practical and pragmatic drive to transform all existing political, economic, and social institutions, a holy force – the power of wisdom and love in action – is born.</p>

Exploratory Meeting
Anti-Racism Task Force
Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 pm
See Cynthia for details
or JUST SHOW UP!



SAFE & HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Two available times—pick one that fits your schedule:

Sunday, April 26, Noon-1:30 pm

OR Wednesday, May 13, 6:30-8 pm

“Trust”

We continue our 2014-15 Worship theme, in which we focus on the UUCSJS Covenant of Right Relations.

For May we consider this promise: “**To build TRUST in one another by behaving with integrity in our relationships; by being accountable for our actions and reactions; and by respecting confidences.**” *How can you live out this promise in your relationships with others in UUCSJS? Are you trustworthy? Do you trust others?*

Book Lovers Group will meet Friday, May 15 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library. This month's selection, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo, was suggested by Judy Pereira. "In her prose as well as her purpose, Katherine Boo calls Dickens and Zola to mind -- and yet her account of the teenaged Abul Hakim Husain and his kinetic web of contacts in Annawadi, his slum in the shadow of the Mumbai airport, is nonfiction. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, Boo's first book, is an interview-based narrative in which the interviewer never appears, a murder mystery, an intricately-plotted reflection of everyday life, and a reminder that sometimes the writer's most valuable organ is the ear." - *The National Book Award Foundation*. Ms. Boo has been on staff at *The New Yorker* and *The Washington Post*. New members or visitors are always welcome. If you have questions contact Angela Wexler.

Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday May 7 at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. Following a short meeting and our usual sharing of Joys and Concerns, Shelee will serve a refreshing fruit salad with cheese and artisan bread. Then Reverend Cynthia will give a brief talk on “Dreams and Dreamworks” from a Jungian perspective. Those attending will be asked to recall and write down a recent dream, and a couple of those dreams will be selected for analyzing. If you plan to attend please RSVP Shelee by email at sheleer955@hotmail.com.

First Friday Film - Friday May 1, 7 pm

The sixth film in the series takes us back again to Selma. Learn more about the UU response to Dr. King's invitation to march in Selma. Other parts describe our approach to liberal religious education and how humanism figured in the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism in 1963. Our discussion will also consider the role of music in contemporary UUism. Contact Barbara Miller with questions or to RSVP.

Support our congregation by doing what you already do – buy groceries! with gift cards for your local Acme or Shoprite!

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%. We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!

Space Available at Auction Event!

Wine Tasting at the Utts Home

Join Paul and Helen at their home in Northfield to sample a variety of wines on Saturday, May 9. There are 4 unsold tickets at \$30 each.

You may sign up for this event at the sign-up table on Sunday, or contact Betsy Searight directly.

Get Down and Dirty!

NATIVE PLANT SALE & SWAP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year's Annual Native Plant sale met with a huge response, thanks in part to our Facebook ad. We have 76 orders!

That dramatic increase in sales means we'll need more volunteers than ever. Please consider signing up to help out on **Friday, May 8 or Saturday, May 9**. This is a great way to serve your Mother Earth on Mother's Day weekend.

There are many different types of tasks for each day, but we are in need of volunteers in **good physical shape** who can help take plants off the trucks on Friday morning, May 8th.

e're also looking for folks who can **supply food** for the volunteers. You'll find sign-up sheets at the Social Justice table.

Thanks! -- Jesse Connor



You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough.

-- Frank Crane

Learning to trust is one of life's most difficult tasks.

-- Isaac Watts

The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them.

-- Ernest Hemingway

MINISTRY IN A POST FERGUSON WORLD

I'm changing the name of my monthly newsletter column! Some of the leadership were talking about (their) flower names: Lily & Primrose, and I jokingly said that I wanted a flower name and was given one. *Forcynthia*. I like it, and especially like it because I am in bloom right now. I don't feel like I'm in bloom some of the time, but at other moments, I do.

Now, naming the column *Forcynthia* sounded rather self-indulgent, so I added "& from Cynthia" because in reality everything I write and say IS for myself as well as for *you*. That is to say, I ought to take my own suggestions, and live by them, first and foremost, though I often fail.

I also think change is good, and I want to model that. I've had that old name "Cynthesis" for about 20 years. Time for something fresh. Right? "Forcynthia" is so beautiful. It will travel with me, a part of UUCSJS.

Most of you know that I went to Selma in March. Then, in April, I took part in a phone conference with colleagues where I learned what many congregations and individuals were doing, as part of a mostly-white denomination, to counter the racism, oppression, and injustice that remains rampant today. There is much to do and think about, and as many entrees into the conversation as there are challenges. There are good people doing good work.

But, if we don't begin the conversation among ourselves, and then send out tentacles into the wider community, build bridges and relationships, we will 1) not be prepared *when*, not *if* a terrible incident happens close to home; and 2) continue to be a part of the problem simply by not being an active part of the solution.

We know that. Most of us just don't know how or where to begin. I have some ideas, and a few of you have shared yours with me. 9 or 10 people have said, "I'm in," to my request on Facebook. Are you in? We need to meet, in person, bring ideas to the table, then go out into the community and scout possibilities. We need to see whether an **anti-racist task** force is a viable social justice movement at UUCSJS for this time and place.

SO... if you want to be a part of the initial discussion, come to a meeting on MAY 5, 2015 at the UU Center, at 6:30 pm, location TBA. If you can't come, but want to be included, check in with me, and you will be a part of whatever communication networks we establish. Much of our work will need to be done via the internet, as things move quickly, and we will have to stay connected. You will also have to listen and step back, and let go of your pet project or idea. I'm including myself in that pronouncement. That's why it's called "Forcynthia & from Cynthia."

Keep Blooming.

Cynthia

Cynthia will be away on leave starting May 15 for 4 weeks.

In the case of an emergency, contact a Board member, Transition Team member, or the church office, and someone will be able to reach her.

Rev. Cain's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment
Read more of Rev Cynthia's reflections at www.ajerseygirlinkentucky.blogspot.com



What triggers homelessness?

Statistics from Houston's *Coalition for the Homeless*:

- 35% Job Loss
- 25% Insufficient Funds
- 13% Evicted by Family Member
- 11% Domestic Abuse
- 11% Incarceration
- 10% Disability/Mental Illness
- 9% Addiction



Leveraging Love

Have you seen the *Love Tree* in the foyer, behind the Social Justice table?

Our **Leveraging Love Tree** bears the Hearts of all those

who have so generously pledged to our Annual Campaign.

There is still room for more fruit on this tree, so if you have not yet completed your pledge card, please do so this week.

The Board is planning the budget for 2015-2016 and, in order to complete it by the May 5 deadline, they need your response as soon as possible. Pledge cards and copies of Case Statements are available in the lobby. Or you can email your anticipated pledge to uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com. Whether you opt for Supporter, Sustainer, Visionary or Full Tithe, your participation is vital to spreading our message of love.

Return of the Poetry Service!

By popular demand, our Poetry Service is returning!



If you have joined since 2011, this will be a new experience for you. Members and friends read favorite poems or original poems, with musical interludes. Dive into your past and revisit a poem you wrote for school. Still in school? Bring something you wrote for a class. But remember, you do not need to have written the poem yourself.

A date has not yet been chosen but will likely take place July 19 or 26. Barbara Miller will be coordinating. If you wish to participate, please contact Barbara at uucsjsmusic@gmail.com. (You can speak with her after a service, but DO reinforce the conversation with a reminder email!)

Better to trust the man who is frequently in error
than the one who is never in doubt.
-- Eric Sevareid

Trust your hunches. They're usually based on facts filed away
just below the conscious level.
-- Joyce Brothers

I'm a dirt person. I trust the dirt.
I don't trust diamonds and gold.
-- Eartha Kitt

Support Family Promise on June 6!

Mark your calendars for what could bring Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) the big funding it needs.

On **Saturday, June 6** in [St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#) on Pitney Road in Galloway (just south of Jimmie Leeds), FPAC will host an art auction through [Marlin Art](#). You don't have to be interested in buying art to attend!

Plan on an evening of fun! Tickets are now on sale after services at the table in the back of the sanctuary. For \$10, you get entry, door prizes, a chance auction, wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts.

You don't have to buy art! We have the potential to make thousands of dollars, *depending on how many people are present at the auction an hour into it. Your presence is important!*

Please buy a ticket and *attend!*

From uuworld.org at

<http://blogs.uuworld.org/media/2015/04/17/media-roundup-harvard-grads-start-homeless-shelter-in-uu-church/> :

Harvard grads start homeless shelter in UU church

Recent graduates from Harvard University are working with First Parish UU in Cambridge, Mass., to create an overnight homeless shelter for youth in their area. First Parish in Cambridge sees this work as a natural extension of the congregation's core values.

Sam Greenberg and Sarah Rosenkrantz, who graduated from Harvard last year, have been working to change that situation. They are leading an effort to create what is believed to be the nation's first student-run nighttime shelter for homeless youth in the basement of First Parish in Cambridge, the wooden Unitarian Universalist church abutting the Old Burial Ground.

City officials and business leaders say the initiative is long overdue. Harvard Square's vibrant, youth-oriented character has been a magnet for homeless young people for decades. "Their proposal was very exciting, because it's a natural extension of the core values of my congregation: unconditional love, equality, and justice," said the Rev. Fred Small, the senior minister.

(The Boston Globe – 4/13/15)

We need people in our lives with whom we can be as open as possible.
To have real conversations with people may seem like such a simple, obvious suggestion, but it involves courage and risk.
--Thomas Moore

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters
cannot be trusted with important matters.
--Albert Einstein

Trust is built when someone is vulnerable and not taken advantage of.
--Bob Vanourek

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

By Barbara Miller

This month our gratitude goes out to all who help create our Sunday worship services.

If every Sunday you arrive at the UU Center and experience an emotionally fulfilling hour or so, it is chiefly the result of **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** planning and attention to detail. They meet monthly to assist the minister and the worship coordinator in planning and putting together inspiring and thoughtful services. Serving in this group are Margaret Rea, Mariann Maene, Bud Smith, Marsha Hannah, Deb Dagavarian, Helene Gentile, Theresa McReynolds, and Melissa Hutchison.

Who provides the message when Rev Cain is not in the pulpit? In addition to guest speakers from time to time, whom we recompense, we are blessed with an abundance of capable **SPEAKERS** here at UUCSJS.

Our UU values, as well as a certain showmanship, are displayed by Ron Hutchison, Jack Miller, Penny Harter, Doug Dickinson, Charlie Roberts, Darah Walther, John Walther, Carl Benner, Joe Terrazzini, Theresa McReynolds, Jim Gentile, Michael Cluff, Lauren Porr, Margaret Rea, Deb Dagavarian, Alan Oliver, Marcia Wolfe, Dan Wolfe, and Roger Gardella. And that is just in the past year!

The **CHALICE TABLE TEAM** takes turns setting up the Chalice Table and Joys and Concerns “stations” prior to each Sunday service. The crewmembers provide what we refer to as “visual focus items” at the right end of the Chalice Table, often coordinating them with the message topic. After the service, the crew clears the Tables, often taking the time to use the Joys and Concerns water to hydrate the native plants off the back porch.

During 2014-15 the Crew includes Kelli Flores, Geraldine McCluskey, Margaret Rea, Prim Reeves, Arlene Yacka, and Karen York.

Our **SOUND AND TECHNICAL CREW** arrives early to make adjustments to the system according to the differing needs of each service. You spend the better part of an hour looking backward, your eyes on the speaker, your hand on the controls, so that we

can all enjoy the services. These tasks are performed capably by Jack Miller, Steve Fiedler, Lauren Porr, Pat Kennedy, Steve Hall, Bud Smith, Michael Cluff, and Karen Zindell.

If you have ever caught up with a missed service with an **ONLINE VIDEO**, you can thank Michael Cluff. He figured out how to do this -- from the purchase of the recorder, the weekly set-up, and the technical chores of editing and uploading -- and takes the time from a busy schedule to come early and set up, and complete the process of getting videos online.

Our volunteer **MUSICIANS** add beautifully to the aural texture of our services. They refresh our familiar songs with different accompaniment styles. We are grateful for the talents of Quinlan Dunn, Rudy Kreutzer, Colin Hutchison, Michael Cluff, Chris Holaday, Steve Fiedler, Betsy Erbaugh, Melissa Hutchison, and Roger Gardella.

What can I say about the dedicated folks in our **CHOIR**? They arrive an hour early most Sundays, willingly schedule extra rehearsals, and put up with a cranky and demanding Music Director. A performance by the choir really makes a service memorable and (along with the sermon of course!) builds a powerful experience for us. Currently sharing their talents are Barbara Fiedler, Steve Fiedler, Melissa Hutchison, Jack Miller, Deb Dagavarian, Michael Cluff, Matt Smith, Susan Blood, Ruth Eaves, Lauren Porr, Lori Baucom, Charlie Roberts, Penny Harter, Chris Holaday, Frankie Barber, Jack Miller, Marcia Wolfe, Dan Wolfe, Paul Utts, and Betsy Erbaugh.



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 7, 2015 at 11:15 am** (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of:

- Approving the budget for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year;
- Electing members of:
 - Ministerial Search Committee
 - Board of Trustees
 - Nominations Committee;
- Voting on proposed changes to the UUCSJS Bylaws;
- and transacting such other business as may come before the congregation.

Notice will be distributed to members' email addresses of record as available, and others by regular mail, no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting, as the UUCSJS Bylaws require; in other words, on or before **May 7, 2015**.

Three Ways to Vote (you must be a member in order to vote):

1. **By attending the meeting in person.** A quorum must be present in order to conduct the business of the congregation.
2. **By Absentee Ballot** – An Absentee Ballot will be available and must be received by the Board secretary before the start of the Annual Meeting at 11:15 am, June 7, 2015 in order to be counted.
3. **By Proxy** – A Proxy Letter signed by the absent member authorizes another member to vote on the absent member's behalf. Members may easily create their own proxy letter. The proxy letter names the proxy and states that said proxy is authorized to vote on behalf of the named member at the meeting named and is properly signed and dated. The proxy letter shall be presented to the Board secretary or to the meeting moderator on or before the opening of the Annual Meeting. No member may vote more than two (2) proxies per meeting. A proxy is valid for one (1) meeting only, and can be used on all matters other than the amending of bylaws.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Explore... Discover... Relax... Reflect...
Share... Play

Murray Grove Annual Gathering Two Nights!! June 12-14, 2015

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday, June 12 to Sunday, June 14. 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. Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, and some intergenerational games and enjoy an indoor pot-luck dinner. Sunday will include a participant-led Children's Chapel/Sunday service. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy, a ga-ga pit and playground for the kids, and swimming is usually available.



Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 22 beds available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 per adult and \$10 per child per night, or \$40 per adult, \$20 per child for the weekend. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and 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.

During the gathering we will need help with the cookout, campfire, and with organizing activities and inter-generational games. If you have a hobby or activity to share with folks (meditation, astronomy, arts & crafts, etc) this is a great time to share it with other members of the congregation. If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign-up sheets on Sundays in May or contact Heidi Jansch at sjsdre@gmail.com

“We hope you will be glad that we have this policy in place, as it aims to set healthy boundaries for what is considered to be acceptable behavior in our community.” -- *Melissa Hutchison, a member of the committee that studied this matter in order to make recommendations to the Board*

UUCSJS Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior

While openness to a wide variety of individuals is one of the prime values held by our congregation and expressed in our denomination's purposes and principles, we affirm the belief that our congregation must maintain a secure atmosphere where such openness can exist. When any person's physical and/or emotional well-being or freedom to safely express his or her beliefs or opinions is threatened, the source of this threat must be addressed firmly and promptly, even if this ultimately requires the expulsion of the offending person or persons.

There have been times when disruptive behavior of an individual in the church building or on the church grounds has led members to voice their concerns about one or more of the following:

1. Perceived threats to the safety of any adult or child;
2. The disruption of church activities;
3. Diminishing appeal of the congregation to its potential and existing membership.

The following shall be the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore (UUCSJS) in dealing with these issues:

1. If an immediate response is required, this will be undertaken by the Minister(s), if available, and/or the leader of the group involved. This may include asking the offending person or persons to leave, OR suspending the meeting or activity until such time that it may be safely resumed. If further assistance is required the Police Department may be called. Any time any of these actions are undertaken without the Minister(s), the Minister(s) must be notified; a follow-up letter detailing the offense and the action taken because of the offense, should be written and distributed to the Minister(s) and the Board President.
2. Situations not requiring immediate response will be referred to an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board. The committee will respond in terms of their own judgment observing the following:

The committee will respond to problems as they arise. There will be no attempt to define "acceptable" behavior in advance.

- a. Persons identified as disruptive will be dealt with as individuals. Stereotypes will be avoided.
- b. The committee will collect all necessary information.
- c. To aid in evaluating the problem, these points will be considered:
 - DANGEROUSNESS – Is the individual the source of a threat or perceived threat to persons or property?
 - DISRUPTIVENESS – How much interference with church functions is going on?
 - OFFENSIVENESS – How likely is it that prospective or existing members will be driven away?
- d. To determine the necessary response, these points will be considered:
 - CAUSES – Why is the disruption occurring? Is it a conflict between the individual and others in the church?
Is it due to a professionally diagnosed condition of mental illness?
 - HISTORY – What is the extent, if any, of disruption caused in the past?
 - PROBABILITY OF CHANGE – How likely is it that the problem behavior will diminish in the future?
- e. The committee will decide on the necessary response on a case-by-case basis. However, three levels of action/response are recommended:
 - LEVEL ONE – The committee shall inform the Minister(s) of the problem and either the Minister(s) or a member of the committee shall meet with the offending person or persons to communicate the concern.
 - LEVEL TWO – The offending individual(s) is excluded from specific church activities for a limited period of time, with reasons and conditions of return written and made clear (with a copy going to the offender and one going into congregational files).
 - LEVEL ONE or LEVEL TWO actions taken may be appealed to the Executive Committee of the Board, and/or the Minister(s).
 - LEVEL THREE – The offending individual is permanently excluded from church premises and all church activities. Before this is carried out, the committee will consult with the Board and the Minister(s). If it is agreed that the expulsion take place, a letter will be written and sent by the Minister(s) to the individual(s) outlining the expulsion, the individual's rights, and any possible recourse.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore strives to be an inclusive community, affirming our differences in beliefs, opinions, and life experiences. However, concern for the safety and well-being of the congregation as a whole must be given priority over the privileges and inclusion of the individual. To the degree the disruptive behavior compromises the health of this congregation, our actions as people of faith must reflect this emphasis on security.
(adopted December 17, 2014 by the UUCSJS Board of Trustees)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2014-15

Doug Dickinson, Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira,
Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

May 2015

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org
Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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