

# **Blessing of the Animals**

## **at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore in Galloway**

**GALLOWAY**—The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore (UUCSJS) will host a Blessing of the Animals on Wednesday, October 3 at 6 p.m. at 75 S. Pomona Road at the corner of Liebig Street. The event will be held outdoors but in the case of inclement weather, will be moved indoors.

Pastor Charlie Dieterich of the Unitarian Universalist congregation will officiate the ceremony for pets, their owners and owners of pets who have recently passed. For the safety of all participants, people must maintain secure control of their pets by leashes, portable cages, or other means at all times, and must clean up after their pets.

The Blessing of the Animals is sponsored by South Jersey Animal Advocates, a group affiliated with UUCSJS. According to SJAA coordinator Cynthia Grzywinski, while the ceremony is designed for religious and non-religious pet owners, the day coincides with the Christian Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi whose life was surrounded by legends of his ability to communicate with, or even preach to, animals.

Local animal shelters and rescue organizations are invited to attend, as are local veterinarians, pet supply houses, and other pet-related businesses, but arrangements must be made in advance by contacting [cynthiagrzy\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:cynthiagrzy(at)comcast.net). For more information, visit [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org).

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