

The Quest

MAY-JUNE 2023
VOL. 58, NO.9

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

MAY AND JUNE PROGRAM INFORMATION



Hybrid Sunday services start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) If you attend in person, **masks are optional**. Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs, which are the same every week, are online at meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

May 7. 2nd Annual Brian Doherty Program: Growing Up Human.

Often in stories, we anticipate a moment of enlightenment, or transformation, that can give us insight into our own stories. Two examples, one from fiction and one not, will be part of our conversation about turning toward adulthood and what that might even mean. Led by Rev. Mary Tiebout.

May 14. In Praise of Matriarchy. A bit of history of Mother's Day in the United States and reflections on the changing roles of mothers. Are we shaped by nature or nurture, or both? From Gaia to Corn Mother to June Cleaver, mothers have ranged far and wide in style and powers. We'll consider the meanings for us, our mothers, and our children. Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

May 21. Annual Business Meeting/Readings by the Fellowship. See the ballot on page 6. Our Annual Business Meeting will be followed by a number of readings by the congregation. Members and friends are encouraged to bring a reading on any topic or in any form to this meeting. Each person will read a selection of no more than 4-5 minutes. It can be something original by the reader or from another author. As appropriate, discussion can follow each reading.

May 28. Annual Flower Communion. 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the first world's Flower Communion, established by The Rev. Norbert Capek of the Prague (Czechoslovakia) Unitarian Church in 1923. Everyone is requested to bring buds, blossoms, or some type of flowering plant for our service. There will be flowers provided for those who aren't able to bring one. Rev. Doak's message will be a short one on UU's unique spiritual mission. Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

June 4. Annual UUFSC Picnic. This year's picnic will run from noon to 3:00 at the Fellowship. Details will be emailed soon.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

The Quest is the newsletter of the UUFSC, published monthly from September to June. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

©2023 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

It's a bright, sunny day (April 20) in Newton. It feels like spring is confirming its place on our calendar. Praise be!

I've pretty much settled in my new digs (The Aberlour, at the corner of Trinity and Water Streets, in Newton) and am enjoying it. My view, southwest (5th floor), is of the Sussex County Courthouse and government buildings. I look down on the busy times, the slow beat, and the in-between.

My quick trip (April 9-17) south to my hometown (Fayetteville, TN), visiting my sister and her husband, and having a supper meeting with some 14 members of my former church in Huntsville, AL, was thoroughly enjoyable. I really loved the varied scenery down and back. Striking! In 1989, I commissioned a pulpit of cherry wood inspired by the design of a 19th century one at the Mooresville, AL, Church of Christ. Major General James A. Garfield, 20th President and a Disciples of Christ minister, preached from the pulpit during the Civil War when Union forces occupied the area late in the conflict. The modern version was hand-built by two skilled woodworkers in Huntsville. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville, where I served from 1985 until 2000, relocated to a former United Methodist Church building in 2013, and the pulpit that had been used for 24 years was designated retired and relegated to storage. I contacted the current minister last month and asked if I might have the pulpit for UUFSC. She graciously agreed, as did the church leadership. I gave them a \$100 donation. It will grace our sanctuary henceforth. It's a beautiful piece of art. I'm very happy we can give it a new significance and good use. It's good for another 200 years, at least!

Our annual Flower Communion is May 28. Bring a blossom or flower to contribute to our shared bouquet. We'll celebrate its 100th anniversary! Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Májka Čapek, Norbert's widow. Reverend Čapek was a martyr, killed October 30, 1942, at Auschwitz.

We'll be in recess, mostly, during June, July, and August. Our picnic is June 4, starting at noon, at the Fellowship. There will also be a few informal worship services, Super Sundays, over the summer. (Details are forthcoming.)

Our congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The UUA is an association of 1,048 congregations and 152,921 members. The number of UU ministers is about 1,500, with some 750 serving congregations. The annual General Assembly this year is in Pittsburgh, June 21-25. Check out the information at <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Note that you need to register to participate online. Important changes are proposed concerning the understandings of the UUA as a "denomination"—are we a liberal religion of independent congregations related by shared principles and values, or a covenantal one connected by promises with accountability rooted in shared values? The key element here is accountability, and the possible implications for congregations and ministers. Or are each of these our twin heritage, which informs our faith?

Please remember, be in touch when you have concerns, questions, sickness, hospitalization, sadness, or if you're just lonesome. Of course, I'd also love to share your joys! (509-366-7137 or doakmansf@gmail.com.)

Have a wonderful summer. Remember to gather some water from your summer travels or at home vacations for our Fall Blending of the Waters (Water Communion Service).

Love,
Rev. Doak

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

This will be our last issue of *The Quest* until we resume services in September, but it certainly does not mean that UUFSC will be dormant over the summer.

In fact, we have a very busy calendar! In May, we have our annual Spring Fling on Saturday, May 6. This is always an enjoyable social time together and a great fundraiser for our Fellowship. This event requires such a lot of involvement in the planning, the offering of auction items, and the support of everyone who attends and bids on items. It couldn't happen without the support of so many of our members and friends!

Then, on Sunday, May 21, we'll hold our Annual Meeting to vote on our incoming slate of officers and trustees, as well as next year's budget. Our officers and trustees do so much work behind the scenes to keep our Fellowship running smoothly. They deserve a lot of thanks for the time and energy they spend, and we greatly appreciate those who have agreed to serve for the upcoming year.

The last service before our summer break will be on May 28. On June 4, we'll hold our annual picnic at the Fellowship. This is always a relaxed, fun way to kick off the summer. Bring an appetite!

And mark your calendars for our annual Rummage Sale, Friday June 23 and Saturday June 24. Clean out your closets and donate, then come and find treasures to bring home! (And please volunteer to help.)

During the summer, there will be multiple opportunities to get together, both in Spring Fling auction events and in periodic discussion groups at the Fellowship. (See Doak's message.)

This will be my last president's letter, as my two-year term ends on June 30. As I reflect on these past two years, I want to thank everyone for their generous support of the Fellowship. This has been a very busy two years, and I've been so appreciative of how many of you have stepped up to volunteer your time and energy to make things happen. We truly are a community of people who care about each other and our Fellowship. It's a privilege to be part of it!

In fellowship,

Barbara Kelly

***Mission Statement of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County***

**We seek to nourish the spirit;
to foster peace, justice, diversity and understanding in our community
and the world;
and to cherish and sustain the earth and the web of life.**

THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear Friends,

Wow, what a year in RE! I feel like we've accomplished so much, and yet the year has gone so fast. Thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children each week. What a special group of young people!

During the year our learning has focused on the moral directions we can take to find goodness and justice. These lessons are taught to our youngest congregants, and yet they're lessons that benefit all ages. Remember these as you make decisions in your own life, big and small—interconnectedness (we are all one), conscience (listen to your inner voice), faith (believe everything will be okay), hope, prayer, empathy (imagine yourself in someone else's shoes), and forgiveness and gratitude (give thanks for your blessings).

We look forward to seeing you all during our Super Sunday gatherings at the Fellowship this summer!

Gratefully,

Sharon and Pin

Below is a preview of our RE calendar for the month of May.

May 7. In Another's Shoes (conclusion). This week, the children will learn about advocacy by writing letters and drawing pictures to send to Canadian officials who are considering outlawing seal products. If time remains, we'll practice being empathetic in an active listening activity with a partner.

May 14. Forgiveness. In this session, the children will hear a theatrical reading of a story that takes place in Persia about two friends and the power of forgiveness.

May 21. Forgiveness (continued). This week, the children will get to demonstrate how forgiveness can erase hurt by writing their own hurtful memories in sand and then quickly erasing them with their hands. Then, they'll get to etch a kind memory into clay, which will harden when it dries, to illustrate how the kindness of others stays in our hearts forever.

May 28. Moral Compass Take-Home Project. In our final RE class of the service year, each child will make a moral compass to take home, to reinforce the cumulative learning of "Moral Tales." Students will get to take this home as a reminder of the different directions we can take to find goodness and justice.

June 4. Fellowship Picnic: No RE Class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Discussion Group will be May 19, 10:00 am at the Fellowship. We'll examine the question, "What are the underlying causes of the cultural and political conflict manifest in today's society?"

Spring Cleanup

Please plan to help clean up the Fellowship grounds after our service on Sunday, May 23 (rain date Sunday, May 28). This has been an annual event, and we need lots of volunteers to chip in—many hands make light work (picking up twigs, pinecones and leaves, and any other outside tidying-up). Please wear work clothes to service, and bring gloves and any helpful equipment (rakes, garden shears, etc.). This is the Sunday of our annual meeting, so, hopefully, many people will be attending. We'll be having a little celebration during coffee hour, but then we'll head outdoors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship

Just a reminder that our Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24. Stevie Fava will be providing more details once the Spring Fling is history.

Social Action

The FaithAction NJ Reparations Task Force Common Read discussions focus on "*The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*," edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones et al. The meetings take place via Zoom and, so far, have included 31 participants from eight New Jersey UU congregations—Cherry Hill, Morristown, Monmouth, Princeton, South Jersey Shore, Beacon Summit, Ocean County, and Sussex County. We divide into two groups, and Tony Balzano moderates the discussion in one of the breakout rooms. Our first meeting was on February 22, and our last and fifth meeting will be on May 5. Most participants went through their primary education in the 1950s and 1960s, and, most, their higher education in the 1960s and 1970s. Thus far, the consistently enlightening nature of our conversations has been remarkable. Don't hesitate to contact me at obidog@mac.com if you'd like to participate in a similar UUFSC discussion for fall 2023 or spring 2024.

UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$100 supermarket gift cards each month. Help the Fellowship earn 5% of each card purchased directly from the store, at no cost to you. Thanks!



Absentee Ballot

For the Fellowship Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Voting Instructions: This is an absentee ballot. ***This absentee ballot should be used if you will not be attending the business meeting at the Fellowship on May 21, including those who will be at the meeting remotely.*** You may cast your vote either by mail or by email. Please record your votes below, and either mail it to UUFSC, 1 West Nelson St., Newton NJ 07860, Attn: Board Secretary, or email it to UUFSCVote@gmail.com. Those eligible to vote are members who have signed the membership book at least thirty days before the election. (The proposed budget will be sent to members, separately, by May 7.)

The following nominations have been made by the Corporate Board of Trustees of the UUFSC.

Executive Officers

- President: Stu Feldstein (One 2-year term)
- Vice President: Phil Schaming (One 1-year term, to complete Hal Cohen’s term)
- Secretary: Richard Goffman (One 2-year term)

*Treasurer Jerry Sattin will serve the second year of his previously elected two-year term.

Executive Trustees (maximum of three consecutive one-year terms)

- Jim Kasprzak (second term)
- Stevie Fava (first term)
- Tony and Karen Balzano as co-trustees (first term)

Corporate Trustees (maximum one consecutive 5-year term)

- Susan Felsen (fifth year)
- Chris Dunbar (fourth year)
- Jeff Wallis (third year)
- Marilyn Chapman (second year)
- Barbara Kelly (first year)

Votes (mail or email) must be received by Saturday, May 20, 2023.

	Yes	No	Abstain
Vote on Slate of Officers and Trustees			
Vote on Annual Budget 2023-24			
If other issues are raised at the meeting, I choose to have the Board cast my vote			

Name: _____



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

President: Barbara Kelly

Vice-President: Hal Cohen

Treasurer: Jerry Sattin

Secretary: Stevie Fava

***Quest* Editors: Susan Weiner, Richard Goffman**