

The Quest

SEPTEMBER 2023
VOL. 59, NO. 1

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER



Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) 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#.

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

Sep 10.* Keep It Simple, Keep It Real. Rev. Doak's discourse will consider what we're about as a religious/spiritual community. What does our franchise (Unitarian Universalism) signify? His reflections will offer thoughts on legacy and some imagining of what we can be, maybe what we should be, and how we get there. We'll also celebrate our annual water communion ritual. Remember to bring a small container of water you've collected during your summer activities (or water to represent/symbolize your activities). Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

Sep 17. President's Service. We advocate for peace, justice, equality, and solutions to environmental problems. But is humanity making progress or falling behind? We'll recap recent events that impact UU goals, and we'll take a longer view of some positive trends seldom mentioned in the daily news. Led by Stu Feldstein.

Sep 24. We All Live Downstream. Rev. Doak will share some thoughts on how our personal heritage informs our lives. On the eve of Yom Kippur, he'll look at the religious legacies that combine to make up the very mixed religious background of our culture (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Humanism, etc.). What meanings are there for us today? Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

***A special membership meeting will be held at 10:30 to consider a proposal involving a new landscaping project at the Fellowship.**

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



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

I've missed y'all. Feels like it's been a long time since we were together. I'll be very happy when we'll be back together for the 2023-24 Fellowship year. My first summer in Northern New Jersey is near its end. It's been a good experience—participation in the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, a drawing class at The Kubert School in Dover, exploring the country roads around our region, and searching for good places to eat. There were also a few good parties with Fellowship folk. But my biggest activity was finishing a little book, *Kin-Ship Spirituality*. It will be available soon.

I'm very excited about an Oct 11-17 getaway that's come my way. I will be attending a weekend workshop sponsored by the Unitarian College (the British Seminary at Manchester University, UK)—Worship Works—at a retreat center between Manchester and Cambridge. I'll arrive Oct 12 and spend a day visiting the home village of my direct Mansfield ancestor (Thomas Mansfield b. 1743) in West Wrating in Cambridgeshire.

I look forward to our future together. With my arriving in March and the June-August summer recess, I didn't feel I had "settled in" as your minister. I see ministry as a bonding and relationship between minister and congregation. That occurs with one-on-one engagement and the Sunday worship experience. Ministry is a unique calling/profession that is grounded in mutual respect and appreciation. It's concerned with consideration of meanings that enlighten, bless, and guide, and the enabling of caring for others and our shared life. It involves a review of the human story—learnings, failures, options, and possibilities. It's dealing with big and little questions of being and becoming. What is good and how does one live it? I'm so happy we'll be involved in such an enterprise.

Please contact me with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.



Love,

Rev. Doak

(The caricature above is not my work. Working on becoming that good, though.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

We begin anew! Welcome to the start of the Fall 2023 season at the UUFSC.

You'll likely notice a few things that happened over the summer. The overgrown bushes in front of the building are gone, and so is the nasty little tree that blocked the wooden UU sign. It's the beginning of a larger landscaping project to make our building look much more inviting.

Meantime, our Vice President, Phil Schaming, has been developing a new audio-visual system, aided by our resident expert on most things, Hal Cohen. It will improve the electronics for Sunday services—and may enable us to post our services to YouTube to engage more potential members.

So, it's been a busy summer. Thanks go to everyone who helped with these projects so far—Phil and Ann Schaming, Hal, Laura and Kevin Dempsey, Barbara Kelly, and Stevie Fava. (I'd better not leave her out.)

This will be my first time as president, and I got elected without first being indicted for felonies, unlike some presidential candidates. Thanks for the support.

Doak Mansfield will be our minister for the full year. I look forward to his consistently clear and inspiring sermons.

One of my objectives this year will be to increase UU membership and Sunday attendance. We did fairly well with that last year, and hopefully will do better this year.

See you soon,

Stu

***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



Welcome back friends!

Hopefully, you've had a chance to rest and recharge a bit this summer. Summer is such an exciting time for our children—new experiences and new adventures. It's also the season to pursue passions, and to make memories with family and friends.

A new season is upon us! Please know that we're honored to spend time with your children each week, strengthening connections and making new ones.

This year, we'll continue our unit Moral Tales, in which we share stories from across time and space that help guide our decision-making as young citizens of the earth. Last year, we received such positive feedback from Moral Tales that we decided to continue where we left off. Each "tale" introduces a new direction on our moral compass that we can use to help guide us to make choices that reflect our values.

We look forward to seeing you all on September 10th!

With much anticipation,

Sharon (director and teacher of religious education) and Pin (assistant teacher)

Below is our RE calendar for September.

Sep 10. First Day of RE. Every week, we'll begin our morning upstairs to help light the sanctuary chalice and recite our opening words, and then head downstairs to the RE gathering space. Once downstairs, we'll light our own mini-chalice, share joys and concerns, and begin establishing a routine for our RE sessions. Most importantly, we'll take some time to get to know each other.

Sep 17. Introduction of Moral Tales. During our second session, we'll "fish" for friends as a fun way of welcoming each other. Then, we'll play a game introducing/reviewing the tales we shared last year and the moral lesson we learned from each. We'll also set expectations of the RE program and begin to form a covenant of behavior.

Sep 24. Welcome One and All. In this third session, children are introduced to the moral lesson Welcome One and All. We'll hear a story that reminds us not to judge a book by its cover and to always include everyone. If time permits, we'll do an interactive activity to make this bit of wisdom more concrete.

Social Action

March to End Fossil Fuels: Join Marilyn Chapman in NYC on September 17 for the March to End Fossil Fuels. Please call her for details.

UU FaithAction Gala: The UU Congregation at Princeton is hosting the UU FaithAction NJ Annual Gala on September 9, 12-3 pm. (Carpooling is available.) The keynote speaker is Amy Torres (they/she), who serves as the Executive Director of [New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice](#) (NJAIJ). In this position, they lead member organizations and staff to direct policy and organizational priorities. You can register for the gala at <https://www.uufaithaction.org>.



NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome back from summer doings. On behalf of the Fellowship, I want to thank those of you who have submitted your pledges and contributions. For those of you who have not yet submitted your pledges, please do so at your earliest convenience. Remember, you don't have to send your payment right away. It's fine to send the pledge form now and then make payment later on. For planning purposes, it's very helpful if you tell us how much you plan to pledge.

A blank pledge form appears on page 6.

Thank you, and best wishes for the year ahead,
Jerry Sattin

UNSUNG HERO

Dave Okrepka is not a member of UUFSC, but loves our building and its history, and likes donating his time to help us out. He's an old friend of Phil and Sue Weiner, lives in Dingmans Ferry, PA, and is a project manager for a construction company.

In 2014, at Phil W's request, Dave purchased all the replacement windows for UUFSC at an excellent price, and he and his crew installed them. Several years after that, they provided the labor to transform the entranceway into a more inviting space, including new lighting, new ceiling, and new front door. They also upgraded the attic's insulation and improved the attic's entrance/exit.

This summer, Phil Weiner, along with Dave, Barbara Kelly, and David Miller (Barbara's husband), worked on the problem with the new windows not staying closed. Those four, plus a friend of Dave O's, fixed the problems this past July, at a substantially discounted labor cost.

Thank you, Dave Okrepka, for being our unsung hero. [here!](#)

ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM

Please complete the Annual Dues/Pledge Form below and return it to Jerry Sattin as soon as possible. You can elect to pay your pledge as a single, quarterly, monthly, or weekly payment.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UUA,
UUCER, AND UU FAITH ACTION**

For the new year, the Board will be paying about \$100 in dues per member to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), UU Central East Region (UUCER), and UU FaithAction NJ on your behalf. You will receive a copy of each edition of *UU World* magazine and can access other programs and resources from each organization by going to www.uua.org, www.uua.org/central-east, and www.uufaithaction.org. Please consider reimbursing the Fellowship for these dues, if possible.

ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Please retain this portion for your records:

Total Dues/Pledged (2023-24) * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: _____ Quarterly Payment: _____
Monthly Payment: _____ Weekly Payment: _____

Cut here

Please return this portion to: Jerry Sattin, 5 Lansing Place, Unit B, Montclair, NJ 07043
or email this page to sattinj@gmail.com

Member Name(s): First and Last Names: _____

Total Dues/Pledged (2023-24) * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: _____ Quarterly Payment: _____
Monthly Payment: _____ Weekly Payment: _____

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!



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

ShopWithScrip is now called RaiseRight and continues to offer the Fellowship a wonderful way to raise needed funds as you shop. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards that you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to www.raiseright.com. Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

President: Stu Feldstein

Vice-President: Phil Schaming

Treasurer: Jerry Sattin

Secretary: Richard Goffman

Quest Editors: Susan Weiner, Richard Goffman