

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER



SUNDAY SERVICES ARE HYBRID STARTING NOV. 7 AT 10:30. You may attend in person, following the guidelines listed in Barbara's message on page 3. If you still wish to attend the virtual service, you can do so the same way we've been doing all along. Go to meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj. Or join by phone, 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

Nov 7. I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes. Theologian, philosopher and civil rights leader Howard Thurman wrote scholarly books and essays, but he also wrote brief meditation pieces. The one that bears this title is based on Psalm 121, which begins, "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence comes my help." Does something remind us to lift up our eyes? To what do we look for help or strength? Led by Mary Tiebout. (The text of Thurman's meditation is included in Mary's letter on page 2.)

Nov 14. Journeying to Spiritual Wholeness. The pandemic and the murder of George Floyd allowed our country to look at itself in a mirror it had previously ignored or quickly glanced away from. How should people of faith carve out a safe place to discuss what we had all seen? Hear how a small church group got started, find out what they have done, and listen to their ideas for creating a "more perfect union." Led by Dr. Charles Morgan. Program host is Estee Lopez.

Nov 21. A Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address. Surely, we don't speak words of thanksgiving or praise just once a year. Many Native people address the rising sun by expressing gratitude for all that gives and maintains life. Our thoughts will be centered on the daily Thanksgiving address that comes from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, a democratic peace-making union of five Native nations, as described by Robin Wall Kimmerer in *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Nov 28. Our Spiritual Connection to Animals. On this holiday weekend of celebration with family and friends, it's time to also honor relationships with our furry and feathery friends. We'll consider how they often help us achieve a spiritual connection and share stories of what special spiritual and moving moments we have had as we share our planet with the wildlife that surrounds us. Led by Hal Cohen and Sue Weiner.

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.*

DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK! Turn your clock back one hour before bed on Saturday night, Nov. 6, so you won't be early for the service on Sunday.

The Quest is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most recent information, see www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

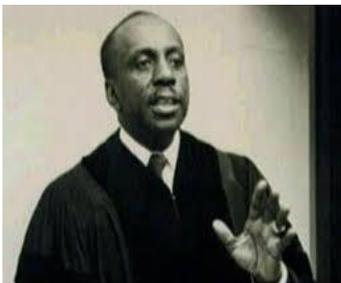
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ALONG THE PATH

Dear Fellowship Friends,

One of the major highlights of our annual UUA General Assembly is the Ware Lecture. This year, attendees were delighted to hear two prominent voting rights activists sharing the online lectern--former Georgia state representative Stacey Abrams, who founded Fair Fight Action, and Desmond Meade of Florida, who leads the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, an organization that works to restore voting and other rights to returning (formerly incarcerated) citizens.

On the UUA website, you can go to the Ware Lecture page, uua.org/midamerica/news/blog/2021-ware-lecture-general-assembly, and find links to texts of recent lectures and a list of speakers going back to the first lecture, delivered in 1922. You may be astounded by the parade of world-famous individuals who said “Yes” to this invitation. Among those is Howard Thurman, who spoke in 1956.



In celebration of the first Sunday service to be held in our warm and welcoming sanctuary, and in gratitude for the work of our Board, Fellowship Reopening Committee, technology experts, piano caretakers, air-purifier procurers, and all who plan to attend, we'll gather on November 7, masked and vaxed, and still connected to folks joining us online or by phone. The focus of our conversation will be words written by Howard Thurman, included in *Meditations for the Heart*, published in 1999 by Beacon Press. Words from the meditation, “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes” are included below so we can think for a few days about

Thurman’s message and consider what it is that calls to us to lift up our eyes, and what it is that gives us strength.

I will lift up mine eyes. Scarcely knowing it, I hover over all my little aches and pains, my petty annoyances, my little frustrations... Then out of no place comes sometimes a gentle, sometimes startling reminder and I lift up mine eyes...

I will lift up mine eyes to life, that I may read the guideposts along my way and not miss the important turning in the road.

I will lift up mine eyes to love, that I may not close the door of my heart to the knocking hand, the tender cry, the anxious reach.

I will lift up mine eyes to God, that I may meet the divine spirit not only in the high place, the great moment, the penetrating call, but also in the byways, the little duties, the stinging irritations and the sad and bottomless renunciations. And for me this is enough.

With gratitude and joy and Autumn blessings...

Mary

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends,

Finally, the moment we've all been waiting for—UUFSC will resume in-person services on Sunday, November 7!

At the same time, we will continue to share the service virtually by Google Meet and telephone for those members/friends who are unable or uncomfortable about attending. Sue Weiner will continue to send out the Google Meet and telephone links before each service.

We are taking a number of precautions to minimize the risks of COVID-19.

- Vaccinations: All in-person attendees must show proof of vaccination the first time they attend at the Fellowship. We will keep a record of this, so you won't have to show it after this first time. Given that unvaccinated children can transmit the virus, we ask that anyone with unvaccinated children attend the virtual service, for now. Thank you for your understanding.
- Masks: All attendees must wear masks.
- Social distancing: The pews in the sanctuary have been rearranged to allow adequate social distancing.
- Air cleaners: We have installed air purifiers on both floors of the building.
- Attendance records: We will keep logs of attendees and their contact information for each service, so we can inform attendees if anyone becomes sick with COVID-19 after the service.
- No refreshments during Coffee Hour: We hope that attendees will be comfortable remaining after the service for our usual social hour, a chance to reconnect after being apart for so long. However, for the moment, there will be no refreshments.
- Religious Education: RE will not resume until children are able to be vaccinated.

Please arrive 10-15 minutes early on Nov. 7, as it may take some extra time to record people's vaccination status. And remember that Nov. 7 is the end of Daylight Savings Time, so we need to set our clocks back.

We hope that many members and friends will be able to attend services in person, but this reopening is provisional. If very few people come, we may revert to only virtual services until more people feel comfortable about getting back together. And, of course, the reopening is dependent on the status of COVID-19. At this time, the Board has evaluated that the precautions listed above will provide reasonable protection for those who are vaccinated.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (my email and phone number are on our Contact List).

I know I speak for all of us when I say that we've missed seeing each other and that it will be good to be back together again! I hope to see you on November 7.

Barbara Kelly

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the Discussion Group is scheduled for Friday, November 19, at 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic will be "Income and Wealth Inequality."

Last month, the discussion topic was "Free Speech." Because of the sparse attendance, Mike Busch was polling the discussants to see if reopening the meetings in the Fellowship building happened too soon.

FALL WATERSHED CLEANUP

Chris Dunbar reported that there were 13 helping hands at this event, held October 23, and that our community never looked cleaner. It was fun to see everyone and to earn money for the Fellowship.

"I know my humor is outrageous when it makes the Unitarians so mad they burn a question mark on my front lawn."--Lenny Bruce

FROM THE UUA

Excerpted from the UUA website (uua.org).

LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Life is full of hard edges and complicated choices. "Braver/Wiser," on the UUA website, is a weekly reflection of courage and compassion for life as it is. Each piece is an original reflection and brief prayer, written by UUs across the country. If you're feeling creative, information on submitting your own reflection also appears on the UUA site.

JUBILEE 3 ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

Nov. 12 @ 6:00 pm – Nov. 14 @ 6:30 pm

The goals of this 2½-day **online** workshop are to:

- Develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations.
- Begin to apply this understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of our society.
- Envision the next steps in taking action.

This event, organized by the UU Congregation of Monmouth County, is \$170 per participant and \$85 for a second or third person in a household. Enrollment is limited to 70. It consists of a 3-hour session, an 11-hour session, and a 6½-hour session. To learn more, go to uufaction.org/event/jubilee-3-anti-racism-training/.



Don't forget our SHOPWITHSCRIP gift card program. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards from more than 750 well-known merchants. If you have questions, please contact Sue Weiner, or Hal Cohen if Sue isn't available.

UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$50 or \$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!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY

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