

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

JANUARY 2023
VOL. 58, NO. 5



JANUARY PROGRAM INFORMATION

Hybrid Sunday services start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) If you attend in person, **masks are optional (subject to change)**. 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#.

Jan 1. New Year's Day. NO SERVICE.

Jan 8. UUs in History. Literally for centuries, Unitarians and Universalists have changed the world. They've been US presidents, Nobel Prize winners, Supreme Court justices, top scientists, and giants of literature. They were prime movers behind women's suffrage, racial justice, and care for the sick and wounded. In this program, we'll learn who these luminaries were and what they had to say for themselves. Led by Stu Feldstein.

Jan 15. Carrying the Tune: Reflections on the Nature and Intent of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Individuals dedicate their lives to an ambitious and challenging calling. The "work," the "life," is a mix of varied obligations and challenges. Come hear visiting guest minister Rev. Doak M. Mansfield, a 40-year-plus practitioner, discuss considerations of the ministry. Led by Rev. Mansfield.

Jan 22. Storyworthy: What's Your Story? Part I. Whether we realize it or not, we're always telling stories. Whether it's for work colleagues, family, or friends, we are constantly narrating events, and interpreting emotions and actions. This Sunday, we'll explore the concepts of good storytelling as defined and refined by award-winning storyteller Matthew Dicks, in his book *Storyworthy*. This will be the first of a two-part program. Members and friends of UUFSC are invited to incorporate Dicks' storytelling advice into a story of their own about a family member to tell at the March 12 service. Led by Jeff Wallis.

Jan 29. Our Diversified Family. In a continuation of our year-long occasional theme of families, Joy and Wayne Daniel will talk about their experiences of raising a diversified family. Led by Joy and Wayne Daniel.

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 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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

A new year–new energy!

As we enter 2023, I want to wish you all a year filled with happiness, health, and personal fulfillment.

For the Fellowship, I am encouraged by the new energy that’s been evident since our December 11 Sunday service on **The Future of UUFSC**.

At that service, we emphasized that UUFSC faces serious challenges, not immediately, but in the not-too-distant future. We saw that, starting in the second half of 2023, we will probably begin to run a deficit, with our expenses exceeding our estimated income, requiring us to draw down our financial reserves. While we can manage this in the short term, it is not a sustainable situation.

We can address this by:

- Attracting new members, especially younger people/families with children
- Increasing our income, both through pledges from existing/new members and fundraising activities
- Increasing the involvement of members in both governance and volunteer activities.

Since that service, *a number of members have stepped forward*, offering to serve both on the Board and on committees. *This is so encouraging!!!* It shows the commitment of our members and spreads out the workload. Many, many thanks to those who have volunteered.

There still is a need for more volunteers, as outlined in the “Volunteers Needed” handout distributed at the service and also emailed to everyone. A lot of this work can be done virtually. Several committees still need extra hands. Please consider whether you would be willing to serve on any of them and contact the committee member listed:

- **Programs:** Jeff Wallis (to develop programs for our Sunday services)
- **Communications:** Hal Cohen (to help with social media outreach to publicize our Fellowship)
- **Membership Development:** Stu Feldstein (to attract new members)
- **Building:** Jim Kasprzak (to help manage the maintenance schedule and any special building issues).

The future of UUFSC is in our hands. Be a part of it–volunteer!

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,

We wrapped up our last Sunday of 2022 together with a beautiful intergenerational service upstairs in the sanctuary. It was a celebration of the various holidays that coincide at the beginning of the winter season. The room was decorated with artwork made by the children (pages 5 and 6) and, afterward, delicious treats were shared by members of the congregation.

The children are invited to stay after the service on the 8th to help pack up the generous donations that have adorned our mitten tree for these past few weeks. I will be delivering all the mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and assorted clothing to Project Self-Sufficiency in Newton. On behalf of the children in need, thank you kindly!

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed new year,

Sharon and Pin

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

Jan 1. New Year's Day. No RE Program or Sunday Service.

Jan 8. Buddhism and Japanese Culture. In this session, children will be reminded of last month's Buddhist story from Japan. Through picture books, online photos, and regalia, the children will learn about Japanese culture. As a special treat, Sharon Pontier will teach us the Japanese art of origami!

Jan 15. Conscience and Gems of Goodness. To deepen our understanding of the conscience, the children will try to visualize situations in which they have used their inner voice or how they would make choices using their inner voice through drawing. They will also go on a treasure hunt and decorate notebooks for our Gems of Goodness Project.

Jan 22. Faith, Hope, and Prayer. In this session, children hear a story in which a Jewish man's faith is tested and how he uses prayer to overcome his dilemmas. We will begin to put our Gems of Goodness project into action and make prayer bead necklaces.

Jan 29. Faith, Hope, and Prayer (continued). To understand the ways in which the major world religions use prayer as a spiritual practice, we will enact prayer for the world. We will also role-play as characters of the story and perform an exercise sharing expressions of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be held Friday, January 20, 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic is “Reparations.”

TREASURER

Beginning January 5, all mail to the treasurer should be sent to:

Jerry Sattin
5 Lansing Place, Unit B
Montclair, NJ 07043

UUFSC SERVICE MODIFICATION POLICY. . . A REMINDER

In the event of a weather event or some other problem at the Fellowship (such as a power outage or heating issue) that requires a need to cancel in-person services at the Fellowship, the following will take place:

1. A decision will be made jointly by the Fellowship President, Minister, and Program Director as soon as possible regarding any changes to our plans for services. It’s expected that this will result in a move to a virtual (online) service only, with no RE program.
2. The Communications Committee (currently Hal Cohen, Richard Goffman, and Sue Weiner) will be contacted to disseminate any information regarding changes to the next service.
3. Such a change will be immediately announced via (1) a blast email, (2) a message on the Fellowship website (www.uunewtonnj.org), and (3) a posting on the Fellowship Facebook page (www.facebook.com/uunewtonnj).
4. Those who do not have access to these services will be called by telephone. (The Communications Committee maintains a list of those who need to be called.)
5. If possible, a sign will be placed on the front door of the Fellowship indicating that no live services will be held and providing the information for online access.
6. In the event of a last-minute problem that is determined on Sunday morning, such as a power outage or no heat at the Fellowship, all members will be called if it is determined that electronic communications will not happen soon enough to be effective. Members of the Communications Committee will reach out if they need any help with these calls.



RaiseRight, formerly ShopWithScrip, 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 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE VISIT JANUARY 15

We're pleased to welcome Rev. Doak Mansfield, a candidate for UUFSC's half-time minister position, who will deliver a service on Sunday, January 15. Please be sure to attend, in person or virtually, as your feedback will be a very important part of our decision-making process.

Rev. Mansfield brings a lot of experience to his vocation as a minister. Ordained in 1976, he served congregations for many years in Cincinnati OH, Huntsville AL, Tupelo MS, and elsewhere. In addition, he has served as an Army and Hospital Chaplain, and has been active in Campus Ministry. He has also been active in both UU denominational and community activities.

A link to examples of some of his sermons, in case you'd like to learn more about his presence, style, and ideas, is https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Reverend+Doak+M+Mansfield.

We look forward to Rev. Mansfield's visit!

Minister Search Committee

Barbara Kelly
Susan Felsen
Sally Sattin

THANKS TO THE RE CHILDREN FOR OUR HOLIDAY DECOR!





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!



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**