

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

SEPTEMBER 2021
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PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Sept 12. Ingathering and Water Ceremony. For the traditional first service of our Fellowship year, please join our water celebration by having near you a container of water and a bowl to pour it into. Children will be welcome to speak first of special places where they enjoyed being near or in water. There will be a time for Joys and Concerns, a homily, readings, and music. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Sept 19. President's Service: Resilience and Reimagining. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience, both individually and as a community. It has also given us an unexpected opportunity to reassess and reimagine what's really important and how we want to live our lives. Join in sharing your insights, whether they be profound or amusing. Led by Barbara Kelly.

Sept 26. Choice and Chance. We glanced by this subject during our summer conversation about the novel *Hamnet*. What happens because of our conscious, willful participation, or choice, happens in a world where things also just seem to happen. Led by Mary Tiebout.

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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES are STILL VIRTUAL,
on Google Meet,
every Sunday from 10:30 – 11:15 am.
JOIN with GOOGLE MEET:
meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj
Or join by phone: 413-679-2794 PIN:139 523 137#

THE QUEST is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210. For the time being, all our services will be virtual. ©2021 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



ALONG THE PATH...



Dear Fellowship Friends,

You might guess by the blue skies in these photographs that they were not taken recently. It's pouring outside as I write, so instead of going out to take pictures of this year's corn, zinnias, and geese, I'm including these that I sent in last year's *Quest*.

And, similar to last September, our Ingathering and Water Ceremony service will be online or by phone. Though we had hoped to begin the Fellowship year in person, it seems like this is the choice that will give us the best chance to be safe and feel safe amid the current Covid circumstances. For our service on September 12, you're invited to have water and a small bowl to pour it into at your desk or table. Our tradition is to name the place where the water is from, to tell of a blessing which that particular source has given us, or to speak of the blessing of water in our lives. Children will be invited to speak first about water they have enjoyed this summer.

Great and ongoing thanks to Barbara and all of our Board members, and members of our Committee on Reopening, for informing us and guiding us through our decisions about meeting in a thoughtful and inclusive way.

Special thanks to Stevie and Sally who did tremendous work before, during and after Rummage Sales I and II and who employed Tom Sawyer-like skill and subtlety to entice a team of volunteers who not only loved pitching in for a good purpose, but who enjoyed working alongside Fellowship friends in and outside our building. Great thanks also to people who so generously donated and transported items from their and others' homes.

The world offers gifts and challenges at the same time. For many of us, it feels like just about too much. But as a community of hopeful, helpful, compassionate hearts, we have been and continue to be an invisible net for each other, like a spider's web that becomes more visible in the rain.

To newcomers, welcome, and to longtime members and friends, welcome back!

Mary

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As UUFSC begins its new 2021-22 service year (and as I begin my term as President), I look back with gratitude and forward with optimism.

Gratitude because our “beloved community” has weathered the past 1½ years of COVID with resilience, proving just how important our Fellowship is to all of us. Great thanks go to our past President Jeff Wallis and Rev. Mary Tiebout for their inspired leadership, faced with all the uncertainties and restrictions of the pandemic.

Moving quickly to virtual instead of in-person services/summer coffee hours enabled us all to remain connected – in fact, online attendance approached our normal in-person participation! Many thanks to Hal Cohen for being our technological guru and making this happen. This was so successful that when we finally can resume in-person services, the Board has decided to hold “hybrid” services, with simultaneous in-person and virtual participation. This will allow those of us who are unable to attend in person to still be part of the service.

Thanks to all our members who continued to volunteer and participate during this difficult time. Richard Goffman and Sue Weiner kept us informed with *The Quest* and emails. Multiple members presented at our virtual services. Our Fellowship Support Committee (Hal Cohen) maintained close contact with members needing support. Our Summer Picnic was a great success, thanks to Marcia, Olivia, and Julianne Smith’s efforts. Our Rummage Sale income broke all previous years’ results, thanks to Stevie Fava’s tireless efforts, along with a crew of volunteers (especially Sally Sattin and Chris Dunbar.) And the several Mini-Fling events offered by a number of members have provided much-welcomed opportunities to reconnect in person (as well as raising money for UUFSC). Hal Cohen and Chris Dunbar kept our building in good repair. Plus, Chris Dunbar, our Social Action Chairperson, has kept us focused on ways to be a positive force in the broader community. (If I’ve forgotten to mention any volunteers, please excuse my oversight.)

A less committed community might well have eroded during this long period of distancing, but UUFSC has weathered the storm and come out even stronger! This is why I am optimistic and excited as I look ahead to our 2021-22 Fellowship year.

Yes, we continue to have challenges and uncertainties. When will we resume in-person services? When will we reinstate our Religious Education Program? Will we be able to have our Spring Fling next spring? The Board is equally impatient as all of you to get back to “normal” and will closely monitor the situation so that we can do these things as soon as possible.

Until then, stay well—I look forward to “seeing” you at our virtual services.

Barbara

The **Discussion Group** will meet at 10:00 am on September 17, 2021, AT THE FELLOWSHIP. The Fellowship's safety protocols require that we mask up and stay as far apart as possible. We will discuss the current status of "Democracy as a Tool for Governance." We'll share our thoughts, particularly after viewing the events of January 6th, the factors leading up to it, and its aftermath.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF
SUSSEX COUNTY**

Minister: Rev. Mary Tiebout

President: Barbara Kelly

Vice President: Marilyn Chapman

Treasurer: Hal Cohen

Secretary: Stevie Fava

Quest Editors: Richard Goffman, Susan Weiner



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!

