

# The Quest

March 2023  
VOL. 58, NO. 7

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County

### MARCH 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](https://meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj) or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

**Mar 5. Reconnecting with the Spirit Life.** When near a point of emotional and/or spiritual exhaustion, white people may yearn for a break from the conversations about racism. But silence isn't an option for black people, indigenous people, and people of color. This powerful service explores white privilege through white and black voices. Led by Dr. Melanie Davis. (Melanie is a life-long UU who brings to our pulpit a deep understanding of, and commitment to, our religious movement, as well as 17 years of lay speaker experience. She is the UUA's Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program Manager and is a member of the Beacon UU Congregation in Summit.)

**Mar 12. Storyworthy: What's Your Story? Part II.** 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 is a continuation of the January program during which we explored the concepts of good storytelling as defined and refined by award-winning storyteller Matthew Dicks, in his book *Storyworthy*. Members and friends of UUFSC are invited to tell a story about a family member incorporating Dicks' storytelling advice. Led by Jeff Wallis, and members and friends of UUFSC.

**Mar 19. Past and Future.** For Rev. Doak's first message as our minister, he hopes to provide a context for our being a religious, spiritual community. He'll consider some high points of our history and offer his perspective on where we might be going, where we need to be going, and even some ideas about how we can get there. He says, "This would be a great Sunday to invite a kindred spirit who you feel would be receptive to our congregation and our values and principles." Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

**Mar 26. John Brown's Raid.** John Brown's raid on the Harpers Ferry arsenal famously sparked the US Civil War. Less commonly known is that the raid was largely financed by Unitarians. Unitarian support for a violent act, designed to free the slaves, raises questions even today. How far do we go to fight extreme injustice? Is peaceful protest always enough? Led by Stu Feldstein.

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](http://www.uunewtonnj.org). Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

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# MINISTER'S MUSINGS



I've renewed my engagement with theological and spiritual ideas in my reading. Seems good to refresh myself as I have sermons to create. I've found myself becoming engrossed and embedded in the abstract world of ideas. I experience it as a realm, a world very different from our lived world of existence.

I'm drawn to what is known as *practical theology*. The four key tasks or questions to be asked by practical theology are:

What is going on (descriptive-empirical task)?

Why is this going on (interpretive task)?

What ought to be going on (normative task)?

How might we respond (pragmatic task)?

Theology: The Greek *theologia* (θεολογία), a combination of *theos* (Θεός, god) and *logia* (λογία, utterances, sayings, oracles)—the latter word relating to Greek *logos* (λόγος, word, discourse, account, reasoning). Theology can mean “God oracles” or “God discourse.” For me, it means “Considerations of that which is ultimate.”

I've learned over my nearly 50 years as a UU minister that we live in two worlds, *the ordinary one* and *the UU one*. The linkage or interaction of these two worlds shapes our character and gives energy to our service, our gifting, and our love of being. Through our becoming, others know who we are and how we value all that is other.

I so look forward to our shared engagement and adventures in practical theology...*thinking about that which is ultimate and living informed lives, guided, and accountable to that knowledge.*

I'm writing on February 20. Most of the things that needed to be done for my move have been tended to. Movers are due here February 28-March 2. They have a three-day window to pack me and get on the road.

My new home will be in The Abelour, at 1 Trinity Street in Newton. I leave Cincinnati March 6 for the two-day drive.

Sharing the Spirit,

Rev. Doak

[doakmansf@gmail.com](mailto:doakmansf@gmail.com)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It feels as if spring is around the corner, with the lack of snow and the crocuses blooming. A time for new beginnings and growth, in nature and in our Fellowship.

Most importantly, this month we welcome Rev. Doak Mansfield as our new minister. I know we're all looking forward to his first service on March 19. After eight months without a minister since Rev. Mary Tiebout retired, it will be very enriching to have him join us. Already, he's been actively involved with the Board and has lots of good ideas for ways we can continue to develop our Fellowship.

Please be sure to come to the Potluck Dinner on Saturday, March 11, at 5:30 at the Fellowship to welcome Rev. Doak. Contact Susan Felsen to RSVP and to volunteer to bring a salad, dessert, or beverage. It should be a very enjoyable evening, and we already have a good number of people signed up to come!

Looking ahead, our Spring Fling has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 6. This year, we'll hold it as a luncheon, instead of an evening event. This is just an early "heads-up" so you can begin to think about activities/items you can offer for auction. Remember, this is our major fundraiser of the year. Thus, your offerings of outings/dinners/etc., provide UUFSC with much-needed income but, equally important, create opportunities for us to socialize and enjoy each other's company.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the sense of energy in our Fellowship that's been growing these past few months. More people have been volunteering and suggesting ideas, and attendance at Sunday services has been up. We're in a season of growth, not just in nature, but also in UUFSC!

In fellowship,

Barbara Kelly

## 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!



# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear Friends,

Already, the children filled the vase for our Gems of Goodness project, each week adding gems for acts of goodness they made happen throughout the week. There is pride on each child's face as they read what good things they've done from their notebooks. To celebrate all the good choices the kids are making, they will get to choose some mindful and noncompetitive games to end the month.

In February, the children acted out a story from Afghanistan called *The Wooden Sword*, illustrating the magic of prayer. We started making prayer bead necklaces, which we'll finish in March.

Each month, we add one or two more “directions” to our Moral Compass, which we learn about from each of the moral tales we hear from around the world and which guide us towards making choices rooted in goodness and justice. So far, we've learned *interdependence, our inner voice, faith, and prayer*. Take time to talk with your children about these guiding principles, reinforcing the lessons they've learned.

Yours truly,

Sharon and Pin

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

**Mar 5. Faith, Hope, and Prayer (conclusion).** To start the month, we'll finish making prayer bead necklaces and perform an exercise sharing expressions of faith. To understand the ways in which the major world religions use prayer as a spiritual practice, we'll enact prayer for the world.

**Mar 12. In Another's Shoes.** In this session, the children will learn the word “empathy” and listen to a story with a message of compassion and understanding. Afterward, the teachers and children will take turns being in the “hot seat” and imagine how they would feel stepping into the shoes of each character in the story.

**Mar 19. In Another's Shoes (continued).** The children will practice being empathetic in an active listening activity with a partner. Then, they'll learn about advocacy by writing letters to officials that have the power to make laws helping animals or people in need.

**Mar 26. Forgiveness.** In this session, the children will hear a theatrical reading of a story that takes place in Persia about two friends, one who teaches the other the power of forgiveness. Next week, the children will get to “write in sand,” to illustrate how to forgive transgressions, and “etch in stone,” to show how to hold onto the kindness of others.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Discussion Group will be on Friday, March 17, 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic is “How is the childhood experience different today from the way it was in the past?”

## Drum Circle

Please join us for our next drum circle Saturday, March 18, 3:00 pm. For a great time, try out a drum or just clap along to the music. This is a fundraiser for the Fellowship, with a donation of \$10. Everyone is welcome!



## Welcome Dinner for Rev. Doak

A Welcome Potluck Dinner for Rev. Doak Mansfield will be held on March 11th at 5:30, at the Fellowship. There is still time to RSVP to Susan Felsen.

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Stewardship

The 2023 Fling will be a luncheon on Saturday, May 6. **All those interested in serving on the Spring Fling Committee are invited to meet with the Stewardship Committee Sunday, March 5, 12:30.** (The Committee consists of Hal Cohen, Laura Dempsey, Stevie Fava, Marcia Smith, and Phil and Sue Weiner.)

**The Return of the Spring Fling...  
A Luncheon on Saturday, May 6**

A form for donating events and items is provided on the next page (page 6). Please return them to Susan Weiner.

## Social Action

The Reparations Task Force’s Common Read, *The 1619 Project*, has begun. The book is being discussed in sections, virtually, and there’s still time to join in. UUFSC member Anthony Balzano is co-leading the discussion. If interested, register at the UU FaithAction NJ website, <https://www.uufaithaction.org/events>.

The District 24 legislators have been thanked for supporting the establishment of an Organic Agriculture Advisory Board. Building relationships in District 24 is challenging, but is one of the best ways to move us into a better future. Thank you to those who reached out by signing the UU FaithAction NJ postcards.

# SPRING FLING 2023

## AUCTION DONATION FORM (RETURN TO SUSAN WEINER)

### DONOR(S)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

### SERVICE/EVENT BEING OFFERED

Service/Event Title:

Date:

Time:

Rain Date:

Max. People:

Min. Bid:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Category (check one):

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excursions</li> </ul>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals and More</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miscellaneous</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services</li> </ul>         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signup and Go</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tickets</li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacation/Lodging</li> </ul> |

### DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE/EVENT

## **WHEN TO CALL REV DOAK...**

Many people think the only time to call the minister is when there is an illness or a death in the family. These are important times to notify the Rev. Doak, but not the only times. In an increasingly complex world—when we are pressured from every side in daily living—here are some suggested times it would be appropriate to call upon Rev. Doak’s services, friendship, and support:

- \* When you’re facing a serious family problem
- \* When someone is interested in the Fellowship
- \* When there’s illness or hospitalization for more than a day
- \* When someone’s been discharged from the hospital
- \* When there’s a death
- \* When you're thinking about getting married
- \* When there’s a wedding planned
- \* If you're thinking about divorce
- \* When you must make an important decision
- \* When you need someone to talk with in confidence
- \* When you celebrate the birth of a child
- \* When you’re facing a spiritual struggle
- \* When you’ve made too much food for supper.

This list is by no means comprehensive. There can be other reasons you may want to contact Rev. Doak.

### ***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.**



### **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**