

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

NOVEMBER 2022
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NOVEMBER PROGRAM INFORMATION

Hybrid Sunday services start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) If you attend in person, including children, **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL**. If you attend virtually, please do so the same way we've been doing all along. (Codes are the same every week.) Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs: online at meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

Nov 6. What Does it Mean to Belong? There are a people in East Africa who believe that each person has his or her own song, and that our songs sing back to us something of our essence, our uniqueness. Our song is about recognizing our being and our belonging in the human family. This morning, we'll explore this idea of belonging, what it means to us, and how it connects us to each other. Led by Rev. Kim Wilson.

Nov 13. Lew Wallace. Lew Wallace wrote the best-selling American novel of the 19th century, *Ben-Hur*, but that was only part of a larger life. Wallace was a Civil War general, the judge who tried the Lincoln assassination conspirators, a spy, a Mexican revolutionary, a territorial governor who dealt with Billy the Kid, and US ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. He was also a musician, artist, and inventor. We'll discuss his life and the religious philosophy of the only novelist whose book was blessed by a pope. Led by Stu Feldstein.

Nov 20. Indigenous in Plain Sight. Gregg Deal, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, is a provocative contemporary painter and performance artist whose work explores indigenous identity. Deal's art critically examines issues such as decolonization, the Native mascot issue, and appropriation. Come ready to listen to a stimulating and eye-opening TED talk by Gregg Deal and to see the indigenous experience in a new way. This is the first in a series of TED Talk discussions that will be part of the Sunday services this year. Led by members and friends of the Fellowship.

Nov 27. Mother of Invention: Lillian Gilbreth. Storyteller (and NJ UU) Carol Simon Levin portrays this extraordinary mother of 12, whose family life was the basis of the novel and movie *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Lillian Gilbreth was a pioneering American psychologist, industrial engineer, and educator, specializing in "scientific management" (time-and-motion studies)—an "efficiency expert" who not only revolutionized the nature of work, but also enabled the disabled to lead more independent and productive lives. Join us to hear Gilbreth's story and explore another facet of the theme of family. Led by Carol Simon Levin.

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 an hour before bed Saturday, Nov. 5, so you won't be early for the service Sunday.

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,

As we begin November, I hope we will all take time to do two things.

First, GIVE THANKS. Thanksgiving Day is an “official” reminder of our blessings. But why not be grateful every day? We are blessed in many ways, both big and small. Consider the glorious fall foliage this year, when the gold and russet trees just seemed to glow. Consider how fortunate we are to live in the United States. Yes, our country has many issues, but compare our democracy and prosperity to so many other nations, and it’s clear we are blessed. And I personally feel so fortunate to have found a spiritual home in our UUFSC community. For these and many other reasons, I give thanks.

Second, VOTE. Our democracy will only remain strong as long as its citizens remain engaged. In this time of polarization, it is tempting to get disillusioned, but we must make our voices heard. Each of us must vote our own conscience, but in making your choices, please consider the important topics that are the focus of UU FaithAction NJ:

- Criminal Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Immigration Reform
- Reparations
- Reproductive Justice

For more information on all of these topics, visit <https://www.uufaithaction.org/task-forces-and-committees>.

I wish you all a happy and healthy November!

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,

October began with a town-wide litter cleanup on and around the grounds of our Fellowship building. It was wonderful to see the children put their faith into action, reinforcing their understanding that we are a part of the “interdependent web of all existence.” The community cleanup effort also helped raise needed money for our congregation.

Looking forward to more time together during this season of gratitude!

Many blessings,

Sharon and Pin

Below is our RE calendar for November.

Nov 6. Conscience—Hearing the Inner Voice. In this session, the children are introduced to their own conscience that can guide them to make choices that effect goodness and justice. We will sign our covenant of behavior, hear a Buddhist story about listening to your inner voice, and begin using a moral compass that we will make together.

Nov 13. Love and Gratitude. The children will explore how they perceive gratitude, in their feelings and in their bodies. The central story, *The Rebirth of the Sun*, introduces the winter solstice and helps us recognize the appreciation we have for how the rhythms of nature support our life. In a gratitude circle, participants will articulate specifically what they are grateful for, when they say "thank you."

Nov 20. Love and Gratitude (continued). The children will host a gratitude table, to which they'll invite members of the congregation to express appreciation by writing thank-you cards to each other and folks in the larger community. As a way to show gratitude within our very own congregation, the children will make and share a Thanksgiving dish for all to enjoy. These multigenerational activities will give everyone a chance to reflect on their own feelings of gratitude.

Nov 27. Conscience—Hearing the Inner Voice (continued). As a continuation of the November 6th session, we will engage in role-play, use a movement activity to reveal the choices we make, go on a treasure hunt, and begin the Gems of Goodness Project.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be held Friday, November 18, 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic is “Is it useful to consider the character of past heroes employing today’s standards of morality?”

NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

UUFSC now has a new and improved Little Free Library in front of our building. Phil and Ann Schaming built and installed a new case, complete with interior infrared lighting that comes on at night when the door is opened. They provided additional books, which they will continue to purchase from the Friends of the Sussex-Wantage Branch Library whenever needed.

As the library gets consistent use from our community, we’re proud UUFSC provides this valuable service. Many thanks to Phil and Ann! And to Pin Smith, who will monitor the library on a regular basis. This library certainly fits with the fact that we’re a “Fellowship of the Open Mind.”



TIMEBANK

For its monthly get-together, the TimeBank will meet November 20 at the newly opened CoCre Café, in Augusta, at 4:30 pm. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Pontier.

NEWS FROM THE UUA . .

(Excerpted from the UUA website)

EqUUal Access is the UU affinity organization that promotes equality and access for Unitarian Universalists with disabilities. To join or to help support their good work, go to www.equalaccess.org.

And don’t forget that the 2023 UUA General Assembly will be held June 21-25, online or in-person, in Pittsburgh. For more information, go to the UUA website, www.uua.org.

FOOD PANTRIES

UUFSC is supporting the Sparta Community Food Pantry with two food drives. The first, for pet food, ended in October. In November, we will be collecting non-perishable food in advance of Thanksgiving. Please be generous!

NEW JERSEY PEACE ACTION

The NJ Peace Action’s 65th Annual Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, November 19, 2022, 1 - 4 pm. You may attend in person or online. In-person will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, 67 Church Street, Montclair. The keynote speaker will be William Hartung, Senior Research Fellow, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Go to www.njpeaceaction.org for more information and registration.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE 2022

On Sunday, November 21, we will begin our annual "Guest at Your Table" collection to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work to advance human rights in the United States and around the globe. This year's theme is *Hope, Courage, Action*.

The injustices and crises of the past year have underscored the importance of the goals we share as Unitarian Universalists—a world free from oppression, where all can realize their full human rights. They also have emphasized just how big a task that is!

The UU Service Committee (UUSC) believes that the transformational solutions we need come from communities most directly impacted by injustice. On Nov. 20, Jeri Doherty will take a few minutes to explain what the UUSC's many grassroots partners around the world are doing to address immediate injustices, as well as what they envision for the future. At this extraordinary juncture in history, their stories offer inspiration and guidance on the path toward justice. You can read about the efforts of four such partners in the *Stories of Hope* booklet that will be distributed at the Fellowship on November 20 and subsequently distributed by email.

The UUSC will set up a special donation webpage specifically for our Fellowship. Go to <https://donate.uusc.org/UUFSC2022> to donate online using a credit or debit card, or PayPal, and then click the DONATE button. (**Don't choose Join a Team.**) For those who prefer to contribute by check, please **hand** or **mail** your check by January 8 to our Guest at Your Table Co-Coordinator Jeri Doherty and Susan Felsen. (See UUFSC Contact List for addresses.) Note: Checks should be made out to **UUSC** (NOT UUFSC).

Contributions of any amount qualify for membership in UUSC. As a member, you join a community of over 40,000 supporters who share your principles and passion for justice. **Gifts of \$150 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.**

As UUs, we can all be extremely proud of this amazing international service organization that's widely recognized around the globe. As members of this Fellowship, we can take special pride in our history of outstanding support for UUSC. Last year, our congregation raised \$1,370.00 from our Guest at Your Table collection, not counting the matching grant funds. Let's try to meet or surpass that goal this year. Thank you all for your generosity every year!

For more information about UUSC and resources you can explore at home, visit www.uusc.org/guest.



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

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.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Hybrid 2022 Fall Issues Conference of UU FaithAction NJ will be held at the Morristown Fellowship on November 12. Visit the website, uufaction.org, for registration information.

UUFSC filled out all 15 of their Reproductive Justice Action cards sent to us by UU FaithAction NJ. Chris Dunbar reported the success of the call to action, as they had requested. However, as those attending virtually couldn't participate, she'd appreciate hearing from anyone who can think of a way to do so easily.

The neighborhood greatly appreciated UUFSC members/friends and RE for our annual Fall Paulinskill Watershed cleanup. Please consider supporting this event next year. (With grabbers, we don't even need to bend over!)



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**