

# The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

SEPTEMBER 2020  
VOL. 56, NO. 1



## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

**September 13: Ingathering and Water Ceremony**, led by Reverend Mary Tiebout.

**September 20: President's Service: The 8<sup>th</sup> UUA Principle**, led by President Jeff Wallis.

**September 27: UUA Banner Topic: Black Lives Matter**, led by Reverend Mary Tiebout.

**October 4: UUA Banner Topic: Black Lives Matter**, lay-led service.

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.*



Due to the coronavirus, there will be no meetings or functions of any kind in our Fellowship building until at least December 2020. For the time being, all our services will be virtual. For more complete information, see the letter from our President Jeff Wallis on page 4. To make your own refrigerator notice (see above), print out the last page of this issue of The Quest.

THE QUEST is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website, [www.uunewtonnj.com](http://www.uunewtonnj.com). ©2020 All rights reserved. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## LUNCH BUNCH

Our online Lunch Bunch resumes on Thursday, Sept. 3 at 12:30pm. Sign-in information will be emailed to our regular attendees, but all are welcome to join us. Let Barbara Kolb or Mary T. know if you'd like to be added to that list.

## MINI-RUMMAGE SALE

**Thank you** to all who participated and helped with the Trinkets and Treasures sale at the Fellowship last month. A special thank you to Stevie Fava and Sally Sattin for organizing the event! (More details on page 7.)

## UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

- Even though our Fellowship building is closed, you can still buy gift cards from the Fellowship for StopRite, Weis and Stop & Shop for your weekly grocery shopping. There are no fees for cards purchased.
- Cards are available in \$50 and \$100 denominations from each store.
- The Fellowship earns 5% from the supermarket for each card you purchase.
- To order your cards, simply call Hal Cohen or email him with your order.
- Since it takes 3–5 business days for card orders to be received from each store, please place your order in advance of when you will need them.
- Feel free to schedule recurring monthly orders, if desired.
- Once your cards are available, Hal will contact you to schedule a convenient place and time to meet to deliver your cards to you and receive your payment.
- Please make your check for the cards payable to “UUFSC”. Cash is also accepted.



## Coming Soon...



**Help support UUFSC with our new ShopWithScrip program! Use gift cards for everyday purchases, and UUFSC can earn \$1,000 or more per year.**

The Stewardship Committee is excited to announce a new fundraising program which, similar to our Supermarket Gift Card program, enables you to shop at most of your favorite stores and websites using gift cards, while the Fellowship earns

valuable fundraising dollars from the retailer.

UUFSC's earnings come from the brands, not from your pocket, so you get the full value of your gift cards to spend. Shop 750+ top brands, and UUFSC will immediately earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy. Raise money simply by doing everyday things—like grabbing your morning coffee or ordering dinner for the family. The percentage the Fellowship earns varies by retailer.

Visit the ShopWithScrip website, [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com), to see how you can earn money for UUFSC on such purchases as dining out, gas, clothing, home improvement, travel, and more.

**But please don't sign up just yet! Sue Weiner, who's the coordinator for UUFSC's ShopWithScrip program, will be sending you details over the next few weeks.**



## ALONG THE PATH...

Dear Fellowship Friends,

Geese, flowers, corn, bees, weeds, rain, a snake, birds, squirrels, a shining half-moon. There's always good company outside my door. Yet, as I drove to Newton last Saturday, heading to our rummage sale and then going to have lunch at the home of two Fellowship members, I was aware of how much I missed seeing the horses, cows, trees, houses and hills that have become so familiar in my travels. And having been in our Fellowship building only a few times since March, I went upstairs and stood for a moment, aware that I was standing in a room that has held our joys and concerns, our thoughts and questions, our tears and laughter, our voices in conversation and song, our silence, our music, our services and special ceremonies, the beauty of flowers and the glow of candlelight.

Much of what we miss about being together in our Fellowship building, we bring to our virtual gatherings, our socially distanced Fling events, our community events and our visits to each other's homes. We bring ourselves. Fellowship lives in us.

And not that we needed a large colorful banner to tell us what truths we hold together, our banner tells members of the larger community what we stand for. It will be good to address each of the subjects included on the banner beginning in late September. Before that, keeping our traditions, you'll want to bring a small container of water for our Water Ceremony on our opening Sunday, September 13. Children will be invited to speak first about water they swam, fished, played in, walked near or collected during the summer months. A brief coffee hour will allow us more time to catch up.

And before anything else, great thanks to Jeff and our board members for their ongoing leadership during this next season of virtual fellowship. Great thanks to Lauren and everyone who has carried our message of love and justice to protests and rallies around the county. And special great big thanks to Stevie and Sally and to all who helped to make our Treasures and Trinkets sale an enormous success!

In a world that needs our loud voices and our quiet prayers, our gifts of heart and mind, it is good to be with you as we respond creatively and boldly to the call of these wild times.

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

Mary



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 2020



Dear UUFSC members and friends,

It is difficult to find words to capture all that is happening in our country. From the devastation of COVID, to the fraught economy, to the maelstrom of the fall elections, to the social injustice and inequality that is rampant in our society, there is a lot to ponder and worry about. It would be disingenuous to recognize our current national situation as anything but what it is—distressing, concerning, and emotionally draining. So, where do we go from here?

I cannot think of a better support group than the members and friends of UUFSC. I look forward to being with you again soon. At its August meeting, the Board reconfirmed its decision to hold services online through the month of December. In November, a decision will be made about the rest of the UU year. The health and well-being of our members, many of whom are in the most vulnerable category, is paramount. We will not return to in-person services until the perils of the coronavirus have been extinguished. But as the spring and summer showed us, that does not mean that we cannot stay connected. The consistent high attendance at the online services confirmed that we can connect in meaningful and spiritually satisfying ways.

We will reconvene with our first service of the UU year on Sunday, September 13th. All services will be from 10:30-11:15 a.m. The link information is in this Quest (on the front and back pages) and will be emailed to everyone once a month. The link and phone number for the service will be the same for every service, so please put this information where you can find it each Sunday.

A listing of the topics for services for September can be found in this Quest, but I am excited about our plans, so I would like to share a little preview of the topics through December. Our first two services will follow tradition: the first service will be the Ingathering and Water Ceremony, and the second service will be the annual President's service. Following these, we will turn to the themes proudly displayed on the banner that hangs outside of our Fellowship (see picture on page 1): Black Lives Matter, climate change, immigration, women's rights, gender equality, and love is love. Our minister, Mary Tiebout, will introduce a topic on one Sunday with readings and a reflection and then the next Sunday will be followed up with a lay-led service with a further exploration and discussion of the topic.

So, we have lots to look forward to. But most importantly, we have the support and companionship of each other to carry us through these difficult times. And for that, I am exceedingly thankful. "See" you soon!

In fellowship,

Jeff

***To contact any person, program or event you see in The Quest, go to our website at [uunewtonnj.org](http://uunewtonnj.org) and click on contact us at the bottom of the page, or call and leave a message at 973-579-7210.***

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello RE Friends,

As I write to you, the large Rose of Sharon bush in my yard is dropping its final white, pink and purple blossoms of the season and I can't help but feel sad that this sign of the end of summer is here again. It goes without saying that this summer has been unlike any we have ever experienced, and yet, it is important to say it; we must mark the truth of this strange experience of Covid-19.



Globally and nationally, we've been through so much since March, fighting many seemingly invisible enemies whose results are real and dangerous; systemic racism and the intersections of all systemic oppression in particular, are at the forefront of our collective and Unitarian Universalist consciousness. There is still a lot of work to be done, and much to learn, and I'm excited to be a part of our congregation as we learn and grow.

This being said, usually in the first Quest of the year I have many exciting plans to share with you about our upcoming RE time together. This year, though, as our Fellowship plans to continue our virtual experience, I am sorry to say that the Religious Education Program will be suspended until we can meet again in person – whenever it is determined we can safely return.

After a lot of thought and consideration, the issue weighing most at the heart of this decision is that it seems very unfair to ask children who are already looking ahead to many changes in their normal school experience to commit to yet another online platform. Online RE participation in our program at the end of last year proved challenging for most of you.

I personally still plan to attend our online Fellowship when I am able and to volunteer organizing certain programs that are dear to my heart (including increasing awareness concerning the climate crisis and systemic oppression), but while we are online, my role as Religious Education Director will be put on hold.



Though it makes me sad to miss this year with your beautiful children and all the growing they will do, this increasingly feels like the right path for all of us. If you have any questions, concerns, or ever just want to reach out, I am always available and would love to chat. My hope is that the children are able to peacefully navigate a balanced and reimagined “new normal,” rooted in prioritizing the health of their hearts, minds, bodies and spirits. I know that you as their parents and caregivers will lead by your examples.

Much love and gratitude.

Lauren

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

amazon.com will donate 0.5% of all of your eligible purchases to the Fellowship, and there will be no cost to you. Thanks, and happy shopping!!

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** When you shop online, please remember to go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com). Once you have registered and selected the Fellowship as your designated charity,

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Our Social Action Committee is asked to join UU the Vote in Action. I suggest that we meet to discuss how we can together help on September 9th at noon. I will be sending out a Zoom invitation which will allow us to meet for 45 minutes.

In the meantime, listed below are current and timely actions needed to be taken in the moment:

1. **A2212** needs to pass the Assembly because it is an important first step for EJ legislation as it “requires DEP to evaluate environmental and public health stressors of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.”

**ACTION:** <http://bit.ly/stopenvironmentalracism>

2. **S57** is a bipartisan bill that has passed the Environment and Energy Committee and needs to be read and passed in the Senate. It urges the governor and attorney general to pursue legal action against fossil fuel companies for damages caused by climate change.

**ACTION:** Call Senate President Sweeney (856) 251-9801 and request that S57 be read to the Senate now and call District 24 Sen. Steve Oroho: (973) 300-0200 to urge Sweeney to have it read.

3. Moratorium Monday continues. We ask that no fossil fuel projects are permitted in our state.

**ACTION:** Call Gov. Murphy at (866) 586-4069.

4. **The Poor People's Campaign** is asking us for help since Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refuses to pass a stimulus package to help the millions facing hunger, evictions and unemployment on top of the pandemic. He also is abdicating his duty to protect democracy by sitting by and doing nothing while the US Postal Service is sabotaged by the current administration.

**ACTION:** Call Mitch McConnell at (202) 224-2541.

You might imagine a Washington without him and consider donating to his opponent, Amy McGrath, at: [amymcgrath.com](http://amymcgrath.com)

Thank you with all my heart. We know social justice is not a sprint to the finish but an eternally slow and laborious marathon that must be won.

Christine Dunbar

UUFSC Social Action Chair

AT THE UUFSC, OUR SERVICES REFLECT the diversity of our members' interests and the spirit of the third and fourth principles of Unitarian Universalism listed in the affirmation on page one. We are prepared to hear opinions with which we do not agree. We are prepared to hear ideas based on spiritual intuition or supernatural faith. We are prepared to hear the theories and provisional truths of today's physical, psychological, social, and political sciences. We try to maintain an ecumenical balance in our Sunday morning services. Our aim is to represent, over time and through differing views, the sincere beliefs and aspirations of all members of our congregation.

We try to encourage the full participation of everyone without regard to age, class, color, differences in physical or mental ability, gender, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious background or sexual orientation.

## RUMMAGE SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our “Treasures and Trinkets” rummage sale (August 21-22) was an incredible success, raising far more money than past sales despite the coronavirus restrictions.

Many, many thanks to Stevie Fava for her tireless organizing of the sale, and to Sally Sattin who, with her years of experience organizing past rummage sales, generously assisted her.

Thanks as well to the many people who contributed to making this sale so successful:

- All the volunteers who spent hours sorting, pricing and staffing the sale;
- All the people who donated goods. A special thank you to Audrey Nagel’s daughter who gave us many of Audrey’s things (Audrey, you were with us in spirit). And to Toni Soderholm who, having moved to Connecticut, donated many things from her former home.
- Our “publicists” who arranged notices in local papers, bulletin boards, and local television, and who placed all the roadside signs.
- And, of course, those of you who came to shop.

A big “Bravo!” for all of these dedicated volunteers. Because of you, this sale was a resounding success.

### SUNDAY SERVICE INFORMATION

Please keep this where you can find it each Sunday.

*The link and telephone number are the same for every service.*

UUFSC Service  
10:30 – 11:15 am  
Weekly on Sunday

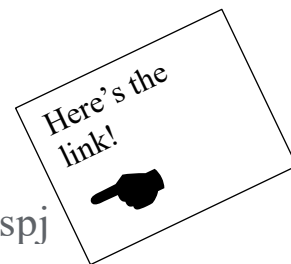
[Join with Google Meet](#)

[meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj](https://meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj)

OR

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 413-679-2794 PIN: 139 523 137#



The 1960s saw the birth of **the miniskirt**.



The 1990s brought us **Mini-Me**.



But now it's 2020. Now it's time for

# **the MINI-FLING!**

## **HAVE FUN AND HELP THE FELLOWSHIP**

Are coronavirus restrictions getting you down? Do you miss the company of other Fellowship members?

**Consider offering a Mini-Fling event.** Not only will it raise much needed money to replace our cancelled Spring Fling, but it will also provide a welcome opportunity for us to socialize (in a socially distant way, of course!).

Here are some ideas for possible offerings – and you can come up with other creative options:

- *A walk at a park, a wildlife refuge, a historic village, or a garden.*
- *An outdoor barbecue at your home.*
- *A landscape or home repair consultation.*
- *Garden work.*
- *A Zoom tutorial/demonstration on a topic (e.g. a computer skill, a cooking lesson, a craft)*
- *A Zoom discussion of a favorite topic or book.*
- *A Zoom travelogue where you share photos of a past trip.*

We held several events in July and August and a good time was had by all. We even had a squadron of a few thousand fireflies volunteer to help. But we still need to raise more money to cover our cancelled Spring Fling. So, pitch in and offer something fun! Look for an email in the next few days that will outline all the details of how to work with Sue Weiner to organize and publicize your event.





**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

**Minister: Rev. Mary Tiebout**

**Dir. of Religious Education: Lauren Jones-Rabbitt**

**President: Jeff Wallis**

**Vice-President: Marilyn Chapman**

**Treasurer: Hal Cohen**

**Secretary: Susan Felsen**

**QUEST Editors: Richard Goffman, Susan Weiner**