

# The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

MARCH 2021  
VOL. 56, NO. 7



## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR MARCH 2021

**March 7 Wisdom as Work: *A Way of Seeing.*** While our capacity for wisdom may be innate, curating that wisdom requires attention, intention and an openness to motion and change. Led by Mary Tiebout.

**REMEMBER: Turn your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night, \* March 13, so you don't miss...**

**March 14 Women Who Write Are Dangerous.** Any writer is dangerous, but let loose the voices of those who have long been silenced, and what emerges can be astounding. For women's history month, this program will honor and celebrate the contributions of six amazing women writers and their impact on society. Do you have a favorite dangerous woman writer? Come prepared to share her impact on you. Lay led by members and friends.

**March 21 Wit as Play: *Turning the Glass Ever So Slightly.*** While our capacity for wit may also be innate, its expression relies on the freedom to see the world and connect things in new ways. Led by Mary Tiebout.

**March 28 Creativity: *Holding on to What We Were Born With.*** An exploration of the imagination, with input from Shakespeare, Dylan, W.B. Yeats, Alan Watts, Bruce Springsteen, Leonardo, Steve Jobs, Rollo May, Mozart, Shelley and you. Lay led by Richard Goffman.

\*And where would we be without Linda Hendrixson who always remembers Daylight Savings Time prior to the Quest deadline for the following month?

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 VIRTUAL, on Google Meet, every Sunday from 10:30 – 11:15 am. 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#



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## 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!



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## MILESTONES

**CONNOR JAMES McQUEENY** turned 2 years old on February 19, 2021. His family celebrated like they do on most Fridays... with a dance party.



## LINDA AND RICHARD GOFFMAN

will celebrate 41 years of happy, loving, rollicking marriage on March 30.

*(And Linda hasn't changed a bit.)*



# ALONG THE PATH...

Dear Friends,

Just a few words and an early morning scene from a few days ago behind our house and our neighbor's house with their very large bird house and a beautiful reflected light in the NNE-ern sky.



The month of March marks a year that we've been meeting online. I miss our building, our beautiful displays of art, our center table, the candles, your flowers, our wooden pews and the two big chairs, your faces, our singing and your gifted hands playing our piano. I

miss our discussions, your thoughtful words, bountiful coffee hours and soup and sandwich events, our RE kids gathering up their projects, parents gathering up their kids. Under what must by now be a great lot of snow, daffodils wait for the right moment to send up their green leaves. I miss our flowers, the blue labyrinth and cheerful goodbyes in the parking lot.

For many years we've held Cabin Fever Breakfasts on late-winter Saturday mornings. After our first year or two, Jeff volunteered to prepare all the food for our breakfasts. I miss all that delicious healthy food. I miss our conversations about books, poetry, Unitarian Universalism, issues of justice, the past, the future, the Constitution.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll hold an online Cabin Fever Breakfast to discuss this year's UUA Common Read, the book *Breathe*, by Imani Perry. Please see the flyer on page 6 for all the details. As we continue to hold conversations around the proposed UUA 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, our discussion of this book will be a valuable component of that work.

Thank you for your kind and caring messages about my broken wrist. It's much better today and I'm adapting to the challenges of getting around as a right-handed person.

And thank you, especially, for your presence on Sundays. It has been a gift beyond measure.

All blessings as the wheel turns, the world looks brighter, and we dance our way toward Spring!

Mary T.



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.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

It is one year and counting! On March 15, 2020, we jumped into the virtual abyss and transitioned from in-person to online services. At the time, I naively thought it would be temporary; we all would be back into our beloved building on West Nelson Street in several weeks. Wrong! But I have learned a lot from the past twelve months, and I would like to share a few of my observations.



1. **The feeling of approaching doom isn't always to be trusted**—Yes, I was sure that with the first online service, we were headed to imminent disaster. Again, wrong! The notion that we would all be able to navigate the multiple steps to linking up through Google Meet seemed beyond our collective digital skill set. Sure, there was a learning curve, but our online services have been far from disastrous. So, when you feel like disaster is staring you in the face—don't be too quick to cave into your worst fears.
2. **Don't underestimate the power of community**—Would we be able to create and share a sense of community online? Last March, my money was on “No,” or at least “Doubtful.” That doubt has been erased. Not only have we been able to keep our sense of community, but it has grown and expanded in ways I never thought possible. The attendance at online services has been equal to, if not greater, than our in-person services. If we did not get a sense of community from our weekly services, we wouldn't be showing up in record numbers. I have come to understand and appreciate the richness and depth of our community. It is transcendent.
3. **Smells do matter**—Wait, what? (Thanks, Mary.) I find that the fellowship building has a special smell. I cannot really describe it; it's a complicated smell based on decades of accumulated essences. But every time I enter the building its unique scent fills me with a sense of security and contentment. I miss that smell! But I look forward to the time, hopefully this fall, when we will be together in our building—surrounded by Eau de Fellowship.
4. **Life will go on**—As I celebrate my seventh decade birthday this month, I can be sure of one thing..... I'm getting older. Life WILL go on!

Stay safe, get the vaccine as soon as you can, and know that you are appreciated as a valued associate of an incredibly special group!

In fellowship,

Jeff

# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Next Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm. Immigration advocacy will be discussed, as will meetings and webinars such as “Suicide and Gun Violence” attended by members this past month. Local issues will also be updated. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Just use the same Google Meet link that we use on Sundays.

UU FaithAction NJ has a new administrator and communications coordinator, Emily Parker, who is updating congregation contacts. Rob Gregson is on leave and recuperating from post-COVID illness.

Much attention is on the UU Justice Gala which I am looking forward to attending on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm. I hope to see many familiar faces smiling on behalf of the work done together by so many during these most challenging of times. The Gift Basket Auction is open through March 3<sup>rd</sup> and there are 13 lovely baskets to bid on as well as our donation shown here. To join in, go to [uufaithaction.org](http://uufaithaction.org) and follow the links.



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.

# Online Cabin Fever Breakfast\*\*



Beat the winter doldrums by joining members and friends of UUFSC in stimulating conversation as we discuss the UUA Common Read—

*Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry

Saturday, April 3rd

9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

RSVP to: [wjwallis@aol.com](mailto:wjwallis@aol.com)

[Join with Google Meet](#)

[meet.google.com/sks-auia-nmm](https://meet.google.com/sks-auia-nmm)

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 765-481-3094 PIN: 409 248 013#

## Saturday, April 3 – UUA Common Read

The 2020-21 UUA Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. *Breathe* reflects on race, racism, and the hope that one's child will be wholly known and valued by society. The New York Times calls the book "an elixir of history, ancestry, and compassion.... a parent's unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children's right simply to be possible." The book can be ordered online through Amazon or [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org)  
Led by Rev. Mary Tiebout.

*\*\* Hopefully in a year we will be able to return to having our Cabin Fever Breakfasts in person with breakfast provided. However, this year feel free to whip up a fluffy omelet, make homemade cinnamon rolls, and/or brew a pot of fresh hot coffee – and bring your breakfast to our online gathering.*



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

**OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

**Minister: Rev. Mary Tiebout**

**President: Jeff Wallis**

**Vice-President: Marilyn Chapman**

**Treasurer: Hal Cohen**

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