

The Unitarian Society, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

732.246.3113

www.unitariansociety.org

#ueeastbrunswick

Rev. Karen G. Johnston
Minister

Jillian Post
Director,
Religious Education

Linda Jay
President
Board of Trustees



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Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

May 7, 2017

Affirmation Credo Service Rev. Karen G. Johnston

A beloved Sunday service of our Affirmation class as they share with the congregation their efforts over the previous seven months to distill their wisdom and beliefs as they current take shape. Come support these 8th-10th graders who have chosen the theme of “Hope” as they enrich our understanding of the congregation, Unitarian Universalism, and the world. Please expect a longer than usual service.



May 14, 2017

An Uncomfortable Journey Together Rev. Karen G. Johnston

In response to the call for UU congregations to take part in the #WhiteSupremacyTeachIn, we'll be exploring together what it means to center white-ness and what we all (whether as person of color or white person) can do about it. While we confront the racism in our midst, can we also acknowledge that it is the air we breathe, despite our best efforts otherwise? This isn't a guilt trip or a shame train, though it may touch that part in you – but it need not stay there. Come ready to worship, come ready to engage.

May 21, 2017

Flower Festival & Senior Bridging Rev. Karen G. Johnston

First introduced in Czechoslovakia in 1923, this Unitarian Universalist ritual was originally envisioned as one of “togetherness and hope,” and it still is – perhaps this year more than any other. Please bring one (or two) flowers – from your yard, from a florist (long stem are best, not required) and plan to go home with a flower different from the one you arrived with.

On this Sunday, we will also recognize the high school seniors who have grown up in this congregation with a Bridging ritual.
Special guest musicians: Bunny Gittleman and her students with Music Director Emeritus, Dan Lindblom for hymns.

May 28, 2017

New Jersey Had Its Standing Rock, Too Phil Passantino

In light of the recent historic Native American protests in North Dakota, let's remember NJ's own First Nations. We'll learn some native prayers in NJ's Lenape language, discuss archaeology sites near you that no one knows about, and learn heartbreaking tales of tribal descendants in the modern era.

Phil Passantino is a frequent and welcome guest at The Unitarian Society, sharing both his speaking and musical abilities. He has presented memorable programs on the folk music of Colombia, his pilgrimage to West Africa, the history of Yule, and the lessons of the I Ching, among others.

Musings from Your Minister

The month of May has much to offer this year.

It begins with our beloved Affirmation Credo service, where the youth share their reflections on what it means for each of them to be a Unitarian Universalist at this time in their lives. They participate in this service after having spent over half a year reflecting on their own values and beliefs, including attending a weekend retreat at Murray Grove with other youth from five different congregations, including from as far away as Cleveland. Affirmation happens every other year here at TUS and it is not to be missed!

The second Sunday in May will have us, along with over five hundred other UU congregations across the continent, engaging in conversations about what white supremacy looks like in our lives and in our faith movement. This term is jarring, and that may very well be the point: what is keeping us from shedding the white-centered-ness of our faith movement? Is there anything we can do about it? This is no easy conversation. But it is necessary, and is taking place across our denomination and goes to the very heart of living into our values.

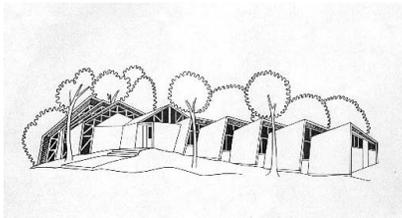
The third Sunday in May will be our Flower Festival, sometimes called “Flower Communion.” This delight-filled ritual that recognizes our diversity through the exchange of flowers has a long history – nearly a century! – and brings beauty into our midst. Along with that ceremony, we will be bridging TUS high school seniors into young adulthood. And to make things even better, our musical accompaniment that day will be Bunny Gittleman’s flute students, a tradition here at TUS that I look forward to encountering for the first time.

The fourth Sunday in May is one of our treasured monthly traditions: the pulpit is filled by the efforts of the Sunday Services Committee, honoring lay voices or guests from outside the congregation, ensuring and amplifying a multiplicity of perspectives. I am so thankful for this aspect of our shared ministry – I hold it to be one of our defining traits as Unitarian Universalism.

After the worship service on the 21st, we are holding a “General Membership” or congregational meeting. This meeting is open to all congregants, though only members who signed the book before April 9 can vote. It’s a great way to get a sense of what our congregation’s values and priorities are. At this time of the year, we gather together to receive the written report of the work of the congregation covering the past year -- a copy of the annual report will go out electronically prior to the meeting, as well as have hard copies available the Sunday before. We also gather to vote on the coming year’s budget, which is another way to say we vote on the financial support for the vision of this congregation. Looking forward to seeing you there.

I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

Rev. Karen



Religious Education News!

Credo Service Rehearsal and Potluck Dinner - Saturday, May 6th – 5:30 pm

All affirmation parents, youth, mentors, and teachers will join together Saturday evening at 5:30 pm sharp to rehearse for the Credo Service that happens the following morning, Sunday, May 7th. Parents are asked to bring various covered dishes for an informal potluck. Parents participating in the musical number will also have a chance to rehearse. All will help set up the dinner.



Credo Sunday is May 7th

The congregation is encouraged to attend Credo Sunday for a service of inspiration and witness. Youth will be sharing their belief statements and there will be song and celebration. Come support the affirmation youth after a season of learning and growth.



Senior Bridging Ceremony - Sunday, May 21

The Unitarian Society is having a Senior Bridging Ceremony for several TUS High School Seniors. We invite you to share in this momentous occasion as we support their transition into young adulthood.



RE Visioning Workshop – Saturday, June 3

On Saturday, June 3 2017, the Religious Education Committee will be hosting an RE Visioning Workshop. If you are thinking about teaching, have taught in the past, or served as the DRE, or if you just want to give input for our program or learn about leadership development, please attend this truly collaborative effort. The event will be in two parts, 10 am to 12 pm (with specific programming yet to be decided) and 12:45 to 2:45 with a different subject matter. Lunch will be served in between the sessions for all who can stay.

This event will be facilitated by UUA's Regional Faith Formation Specialist, Pat Infante. We are excited to get the 2017-18 RE season off to a strong start. Sign up for this workshop will begin May 1 in the TUS lobby.



Teacher Appreciation and Recognition Sunday with BBQ - Sunday, June 18

The last day of RE is officially June 11. The following Sunday (6/18), we will recognize teachers with a segment during services and BBQ Picnic following for all kids and teachers. The designated "grillers" will be serving veggie and meat burgers (supplied by TUS) and everyone involved should bring a side dish appropriate for a picnic. This event is designed to celebrate all the dedication and hard work that our RE volunteers have contributed in 2016-17. What a year it has been as we have come together with the new DRE and minister. This is a time to look back with gratitude and celebrate your strong TUS community!





Naming Gender Justice – A message from the Membership Committee

You may have noticed that when the Membership Committee rolled out new nametags earlier this year we included a space for everyone to write in their own personal pronouns. Debuting beautiful new nametags is an important opportunity to uphold our commitment as a Welcoming Congregation.

The Unitarian Society earned official designation as a Welcoming Congregation in 2004. This means that we joyfully and explicitly welcome, accept, and include people along the wide diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

As Unitarian Universalists we covenant to affirm and promote respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Providing space for pronouns on our nametags is an intentional effort to live into our UU values and our commitment to Welcome ALL Into Our House. The Membership Committee recognizes that our nametags now visibly open a broader conversation about gender justice.

Think of these spaces on our nametags as an explicit invitation to refer to each individual who comes through our doors respectfully in accordance with their gender identity. We have confidence that you will use this opportunity responsibly; in return, please trust your fellow congregants to be their own best

authority on what pronouns they use. As much as we hope you will take the initiative to seek further education in this matter, this is not an invitation to question anyone about what pronouns they choose to write in.

This is our latest (though certainly not last) step towards embracing all people who make a spiritual home at TUS. So how can you best partner with your fellow congregants on this journey? Next time you attend the Unitarian Society an excellent start is to fill out the spaces on your nametag, so everyone knows which pronouns you use.

If you are looking for more information on other ways we’re working to honor each other’s identities we invite you to keep your eye on the weekly announcements for information about a workshop on Gender Justice.

New Member Sunday: June 4



Joy! Joy! Joy! We look forward to celebrating and recognizing those folks who have cast their lot with TUS and have become official members. Though we recognize and love all folks who feel that they belong here, visitor, Friend, or Member, we make a special effort to recognize those who decide to intentionally commit to this place and this people.

On June 4, as part of our regular Sunday service, we will have a special ritual to recognize and officially welcome these folks – of which there are many this year. If you are one of these new members, please be sure to save June 4 in your schedule and attend. If you are a long-time member, please be sure to attend so that you can be part of the welcoming party.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



The Hospitality Committee is looking for folks to set up and clean up coffee for Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings. This is an easy and great way to participate in the life of our society, and help continue this vital part of our Sunday tradition. Training will be provided.

Please contact Marlene Mulroney at marlenemulroney@aol.com or through the TUS Office for details.



PLEASE HELP US FINISH OFF THE PLEDGE DRIVE!

Thanks to all who have already sent in their pledges for the 2017-2018 (September 1, 2017—August 31, 2018) fiscal year or reached out to us regarding their pledge intentions.

This is a critical time in the canvass process as the finance committee must complete the budget for presentation to the total membership on Sunday, May 21, 2017 (following the service). We are doing our best to reach out to everyone and thus far, we have received pledges totaling \$81,000, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal. We need \$106,000 to balance our operating budget. Our aspirational goal of \$116,000 would enable us to implement initiatives connected to our music and religious education program.

If you are one of the more than 25 members/pledging units who have yet to contact us, please send an e-mail to either Bob Haug (dymaxyon@aol.com) or Paula Lieb (paulaslieb@comcast.net) ASAP with your anticipated pledge (no special forms needed). If a change in circumstances will be impacting your pledge (e.g., moving; lapsed member; circumstances beyond your control, etc.) we understand, just let us know so we don't bug you!

If you are an involved friend and can estimate what you might be donating to TUS next year, please consider making a pledge in that amount so we have a total picture of anticipated income.

All of the above steps will help, the finance committee and Board determine priorities and help our community take the next steps in this exciting journey.

Thanks so much!

Paula Lieb and Bob Haug, Canvass Co-Chairs



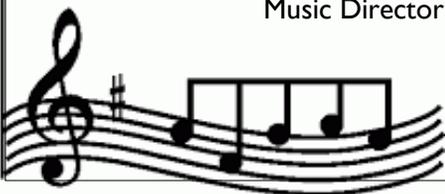
JUST SAY YES



TUS is many things to all of us, a place of comfort, strength, peace, support, and love to name a few. The Leadership Development Committee hopes that in the spirit of being involved and giving back, that you will Say YES when asked to help or serve. Consider joining a committee, becoming a committee chair, or a member of our Board of Directors. Please contact anyone on the Leadership Development Committee (Marlene Mulroney, Bob Haug, Joyce Browning, Phyllis Shaw, or Kathy Reilly) through the TUS office uutus@comcast.net/732-246-3113 for more details on how your skills and desire to make a difference can be matched with the right

Music Committee News

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Music survey conducted online and in our February service. We had a total of 50 respondents. The three top roles for music in services are inspiration/spirituality, supporting the theme of the service, and the opportunity to sing. In addition, deepening a connection to community and exposure to a variety of styles was important. Many comments were made about wanting a variety of music genres and instruments, provided that they supported the tone of the service. The top five categories of music in order of preference were classical, jazz, folk, gospel, and popular music. Thirty two out of fifty respondents were enthusiastic about having a choir, and thirteen respondents were somewhat enthusiastic. Comments will be very useful in our search for a new Music Director or Coordinator, and in developing our new music program.





Congregational Meeting

May 21, 2017

just after the service

ALL CONGREGANTS ARE INVITED & WELCOME



AGENDA

slate of board of trustees
2017-18 budget
update from Building Task Force
"For the Good of the Order"

MEMBERS ONLY VOTE



CONFRONTING

#UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn

~~SUN APR 30~~ ~~SUN MAY 7~~ **SUN MAY 14**



Everyone has to start somewhere, and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual.

BlackLivesUU.com/uuwhitesupremacyteachin



SUN MAY 14 10:30
The Unitarian Society
176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Joining over 550 Unitarian Universalist congregations across the continent.

THE TIMES ARE CALLING US TO SHOW UP



TREASURERS TIDBITS

Bob Munson

You May Have Wondered: What insurance does TUS have? Budgeted at \$21,000, we have Workers Comp, Commercial Multi-Peril and Umbrella policies coverage through Church Mutual. Together they cover the building, our employees, congregation and public for accidents (we've had several claims). We do receive rebates when Church Mutual has low claims experience.

Scrip



Grocery store card (aka scrip) purchases by credit/debit card (Visa, MC, Discover or AmEx) are now available. We offer \$50 and \$100 cards for Stop and Shop and Shop-Rite. Of course cash and checks are still accepted (and preferred, since we don't share the 5% profit with credit/debit card companies). See Lynne, Judy, or Harriet in the lobby before or after the service to purchase cards—and remember, they make great holiday gifts.



You, UU & TUS

New at The Unitarian Society (TUS)? Want to learn more about TUS or Unitarian Universalism?
Want to explore becoming a member?*

Here's a chance to do all that & get to know others!

Saturday, May 20
11 – 3:30

lunch
provided

look for registration forms in the lobby;
please sign up ahead of time;
for child care you must register by May 7

***this workshop is required before becoming a member**

Can you be a TUS Helping Hand?

A small effort can make a big difference when we respond with help and support. The Pastoral Care Team is beginning to use the online service called LotsaHelpingHands.com to organize our efforts to support members and friends of TUS who need us. If you join the TUS Helping Hands team, you will be notified when an online "community" is made for someone who needs some extra attention -- perhaps a dinner delivered to their home, perhaps a ride to a doctor's appointment. You will be able to choose whether to join that community, as well as in what ways and how often you can help out. Just one meal? That's fine. A meal every week for a month? That works too. Please send your name and email address to Phyllis Shaw to be added to the list:

grenthum@gmail.com



Cash In Basket for May

May 7 - The Seeing Eye

<http://www.seeingeye.org/you-can-help/>

May 14 - Black Lives of UU

<http://www.blacklivesuu.com/>

May 21 & 28 - Interfaith RISE

<http://www.interfaithrise.org/>



Parents' Group

The Parents Group will next meet on **Sun, May 7th**, then the following meeting will be on **June 4th**.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

May 21, 2017
10:30

The Unitarian
Society
176 Tices Lane
East Brunswick

Bring a flower --
from your yard,
from a shop -- &
add it to the
collective beauty
-- you'll end up
taking home a
different one

Monthly Themes

Monthly Themes for Sunday Services



Month	Theme
Sept	What Is Holy?
Oct	Covenant & Community
Nov	Gratitude & Generosity
Dec	Darkness & Light
Jan	UU Principles & Sources
Feb	Love
March	Spiritual Practices
April	Natural Elements
May	Hope & Aspirations
June	Past, Present, Future



May's Theme: Hope & Aspirations

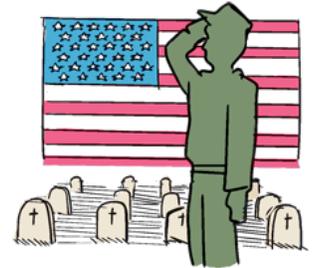
Hope, like every virtue, is a choice that becomes a habit that becomes spiritual muscle memory. It's a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish it to be.
 Krista Tippett

This is not a prayer that you may find hope
 For hope is a luxury that some cannot find and others cannot afford
 This is not a prayer that you find more love in the world
 Though I hope you continue to feel love and send love to those near and far
 I pray instead that you may find tools
 A hammer lying half-hidden in the grass
 A roll of duct tape, curled up and forgotten on a high shelf in the back of the closet
 A wrench poking out of the back pocket of a stranger
 Take these tools and gird thyself
 A hammer for justice
 Duct tape to hold together your broken heart
 A wrench to “grip and provide advantage in applying torque to turn objects” – or turn the world
 Take these tools and others you may find in places expected and unexpected
 Take these tools and gird thyself
 For weeping may last through the night
 But the work begins in the morning.
 — Jessica York, UUA Faith Development Director

To be hopeful means to be uncertain about the future, to be tender toward possibilities, to be dedicated to change all the way down to the bottom of your heart. ~ Rebecca Solnit

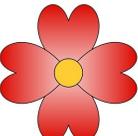
TUS CALENDAR

For The Fridge



MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 pm PhiloMusica 7:00 pm Budget Webinar	2	3 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab	4	5 7:30 pm First Friday Film	6 5:30 pm Affirmation Class Rehearsal & Potluck
7 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:15 pm Buddhist Meditation Group 12:00-4:00 pm Parents' Group	8 7:00 pm UULMNJ Board Meeting 7:00 pm Budget Webinar	9 7:00 pm UMS Board Mtg 7:00 pm Shakespeare Reading Group	10 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab 7:30pm Sunday Service Committee	11 4:30 pm Elijah's Promise	12	13
14 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service Mother's Day 12:00 pm Book Club; Souper Sunday; REC meeting	15 7:00 pm PhiloMusica	16 7:30 pm Board Meeting	17 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab	18	19	20 9am-4pm You, UU & TUS Workshop
21 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:00 pm Membership Committee 12:00 pm Annual Congregation Meeting	22 7:00 pm PhiloMusica	23 7:00 pm Shakespeare Reading Group	24 Newsletter Due 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab 7:00 pm Committee on Ministries	25 1:00 pm Women's Group	26	27
28 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:15pm Buddhist Meditation Group	29 Memorial Day	30	31 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab			

TUS Happenings

Buddhist Meditation Group

On **May 7, at 12:30 pm**, Rev Allen Wells will join our sangha. Allen has agreed to lead our sangha in monthly Buddhist dharma talks, question and answer sessions, and meditation. Allen is a UU minister and a long-time Buddhist student and teacher. You will remember his kind and helpful teaching style when he led our retreat in 2016. Welcome, Allen, and thank you for agreeing to help us on this journey to understand Buddhism and meditation.

You will note the starting time on May 7th is 12:30. This is because May 7th is Affirmation Sunday and we are expecting the service and coffee hour to run later than usual.

We will be working the schedule out on a month to month basis, trying to sync the TUS schedule and Allen's other ministerial commitments.

We will move our second meeting in May to the fourth Sunday of the month (note the change in our usual schedule) because the congregational meeting and then the Membership Committee meeting will take place on the third Sunday in May.



Souper Sunday

Our next Souper Sunday will be **May 14**. We serve delicious soups, usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month, after service. All you can eat for only \$3.00! Volunteer soup makers, contact Carol Church at car227ol@hotmail.com.



Book Discussion Group

Attention All Book Lovers!

Join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month after service in classroom #4 at 12 noon to share in the discussion of a variety of books. We welcome visitors and suggestions for good books! For more information, contact Ruth Varney at varney8@comcast.net.

May 14—Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit, by Parker Palmer
suggested by Ruth Varney

Jun 1—The Dying Animal, by Phillip Roth
Suggested by Noel Meyer

Summer Break – No Meeting



Art Experience Lab

Next meetings:

5/3, 10 17, 24 & 31

Shakespeare Reading Group

The Shakespeare Reading Group will meet **Tuesdays, May 9 and May 23 at 7:30 PM** at The Unitarian Society. We will be reading "King Lear". Please bring a copy of the play. Please contact Harriet Lindblom (732-846-3395 or Dhindblom@aol.com) for more information, or if attending for the first time.



TUS Women's Group

Thursday May 25, 1pm

Topic: TBA

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www.unitariansociety.org
#ueastbrunswick

Welcome All Into Our House

NEWSLETTER FACTS: The deadline for the June 2016 newsletter is **Wednesday, May 24th.**

Leave a submission in the newsletter box in the TUS office or send by email to uutus@comcast.net.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements are sent out on Wednesday afternoon. Please submit your information to uutus@comcast.net no later than Wednesday morning.

UU WORLD MAGAZINE: If any TUS member is not receiving their free copy of UU World, or if you have a change of address, please contact Jackie at jacalyn21@aol.com, the chair of the Membership Committee.

THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY

President	Linda Jay	lindamjay@comcast.net
Vice President		Kathy Scarbrough
Treasurer		Bob Munson
Secretary		Marty Mussman
Trustee		Clif Ashcraft
Trustee		Doug Liebau
Trustee		Rich Phelan
Youth Representative		Lexi Mussman
Montessori School Board Rep.		Marty Mussman

UNITARIAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD

Marty Mussman, Chair
Paula Lieb, Vice Chair
Joyce Browning
Eileen Chant
Rose Vydellingum
Joy Ward
Himanshu Pandit,
(former UMS parent)

TUS STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Karen G. Johnston, Minister—revkarentus@gmail.com

Megan Britton, Office Administrator—uutus@comcast.net

Jillian Post, Director of Religious Education—tusdrejillian@gmail.com

Michael Stein, Acting Music Coordinator—mike.stein.music@gmail.com

Susan Biancamano, UMS Director—sbiacamano@comcast.net

Rev. Karen is available for Pastoral Care by appointment. Please contact her at revkarentus@gmail.com or at (732) 649-8110

(voice message or text is fine).

Mondays are Rev. Karen's day of rest and Thursdays are her day for writing sermons/focusing on worship. She limits responses to email and phone calls on these days and does not attend TUS meetings. If you would like to see her, it is best to email her to set up a time.