

# 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



## Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

July 2, 2017

### Rise Up: Reflections on Patriotism Rev. Karen G. Johnston

The musical, Hamilton, and moving to Central Jersey, not to mention this latest chapter in this American experiment, has caused Rev. Karen to reconsider her relationship to patriotism. She'll share some of her musings in this Sunday service.

*July 2nd we say goodbye with a heart full of gratitude to Michael B Stein who has been our Acting Music Coordinator this past year. Mike, thank you for the joy you brought us with your music. Good luck at UCLA in the doctoral program on music composition!*

July 9, 2017

### The Curse of the Whippoorwill Dave Chapman

Our lives are filled with opportunities – but – we often have times filled with serious frustrations. As Unitarian Universalists, where do we go for practical help and spiritual help when we feel overwhelmed by our difficulties? What guidelines can we establish that will help us through the tough times? And is there any truth to the oft-stated belief that inside every problem is an opportunity? Dave shares his thoughts on the painful side of everyday living and the role our faith and our spiritual community can play in helping us survive and staying productive.

*Dave Chapman is a John Maxwell Certified coach, speaker, and trainer. He studies, writes and speaks in the areas of human productivity, social psychology and the religions of the world. Dave teaches three courses at the Rutgers University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and is a ten-year member of Toastmasters International. Dave surfs in the Atlantic Ocean off of Long Beach Island and loves to fly fish. He and his wife, Janice, live in Flemington, New Jersey.*

June 16, 2017

### The Relationships We Make Alia Shinbrough

What is it that binds us together as a liberal religious community when we “reserve to each individual the right to their own beliefs as to the nature of God and the Universe”? In UU gatherings there is often a mutual understanding that “we need not believe alike to love alike” but without shared belief, how do we understand what holds our communities together as a religion? How do we build relationships in a specifically Unitarian Universalist context? As we strive to create beloved community, and when we inevitably fall short of perfection, how do we recommit ourselves to our shared aspirations? With full acknowledgement that answers to these important questions may not be simple or forthcoming, this service aims to share a young adult perspective on UU spirituality, community, and covenant.

June 23, 2017

TBA

July 30, 2017

### Resist and Rejoice!

### Highlights of UUA General Assembly 2017 Rich Corridore, Russ Gale, Linda Joy and Angela Pineiro

In this time of deep challenges for our denomination and our nation, the theme of this year's UUA GA reminds us that even as we call for resistance to the dynamics of racial injustice in our society, we must rejoice in what brings us together in Beloved Community. In this service, our 4 lay attendees will share the highlights and important events — including the election of a new UUA president — of their time in New Orleans, as well as their appreciation for this incredible opportunity.

#### Table of Contents

- Sunday Services...1
- Musings from  
    Your Minister...2
- Religious Education...3
- Separation of Church  
and State...4
- Annual Program Fund  
Honor...5
- Social Justice...5
- Summer Schedules...6
- Food Donations...6
- Treasurer's Tidbits...7
- Cash In Basket...7
- Gratitude Prayer Flag  
Garden...8
- Ministry  
    Sponsorship...8
- Blessing of the  
Backpacks...9
- You, UU & TUS  
Workshop...9
- TUS Happenings...10
- Summer Hospitality...10
- TUS Calendar...11
- Information...12

# Musings from Your Minister:

## *Report from General Assembly July 2017*

I am writing this as I sit in the Louis B. Armstrong airport on my way home to New Jersey after a week of meetings with Unitarian Universalists. The first two days were with over five hundred UU ministers and the other five days was with FOUR THOUSAND (!!!) UUs from all over the continent (and, in fact, all over the world).

There were five of us from TUS present at General Assembly (“GA”), our strongest showing ever (or at least in recent memory). On July 30, you’ll get to hear from the other four who attended – they will be bringing their impressions to you as part of our Sunday service that day. No doubt their enthusiasm will be infectious. I am so thankful for their attendance, their excitement, and how seriously they took their responsibility of being a voting delegate representing this congregation.

This was my third full GA, so I am not “old hat” at it. It still very much feels like a new experience each time I have gone. I find it a combination of exciting and inspirational, overwhelming and, on occasion, disappointing. After a week of overwhelm in 2015, I came away unsure of where in Unitarian Universalism I belonged. This time, I have come away with a deep sense of connection: to my ministry, to my colleagues, to our faith movement, and to you. I come away feeling invigorated and in touch with a renewed sense of creativity.

GA is the one time Unitarian Universalists get to experience worship mega-church style. Worship every day, several times a day. In the early morning, it’s likely “only” 500 or 800 people show up. But in the evening, or on the last day? Well, the whole 4,000. Singing songs, listening to powerful sermons, moving along with amazing music, and resonating with the voices of thousands of other UUs – it’s amazing.

This year we went deep:

- We continued to examine and re-examine how patterns of white supremacy impact who we have been and who we are today, offering up the choice to change it. I am so thankful to the organizers of Black Lives of UU who have raised up this issue – sometimes with jarring language – so that we might not repeat history that brought pain and betrayal.
- We took a new look at the Principles and Sources, considered changes to language that aimed for broader inclusivity. We deferred a change to the First Principle for further conversation. We changed the wording in the Second Source from “women and men” to “people” to reflect a more inclusive understanding of gender identity beyond the binary.
- We are taking seriously, for the first time since it was raised, consideration of an 8th Principle that would explicitly address racial justice.
- We are moving away from able-ist language in the term, “Standing on the Side of Love,” to “Answering the Call of Love,” as we listen to prophetic voices that remind us human bodies come in all shapes, sizes, and abilities.
- After having the first woman president serve as part of the recent three-person co-presidency, we elected the first woman president of our UUA: Rev. Susan Frederick Gray.

This is such a juicy time in our faith movement’s history. So much is possible. So much to gain and so much to lose. So much possibility to repeat problematic history. So much opportunity to co-create new narratives of liberation and hope. I come away not certain of the outcome, but hopeful that we are moving in a good directions.

I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

*Rev. Karen*

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



## **Teaching Teams for 2017-18 Are Now Forming**

The Unitarian Society is taking a break from R.E. classes this summer but new teams for the next RE season are forming now. An introduction to curriculum/input work session will be taking place on Thursday, August 3rd at 7 pm. This may take place virtually or in person (or both). For example, if you can't be there physically, we can give you a link to join us via the Zoom online meeting platform. The RE teaching teams will be comprised of volunteers who have been attending TUS regularly for at least 6 months (by the time classes start in September), preferably longer. If you have questions, would like to have a conversation about teaching, or would like to add your name to our volunteer teacher list, please email Jillian, the DRE at [tusdrejillian@gmail.com](mailto:tusdrejillian@gmail.com) Thank you in advance for your interest.

## **Summer Childcare at TUS**

Because we are not having formal RE classes this summer at TUS, families and visitors are welcome to utilize our nursery/childcare room which will be staffed all summer. They may also set with their infants and children in the service for its entirety (or a combination of the two.) The only weekend we will not provide coverage is Labor Day weekend - September 3rd.



## **What Will Your DRE Be Up to this Summer?**



The DRE will be continuing to work a Wednesday/Friday/Sunday schedule throughout the summer - present at TUS most weeks (the exceptions are 7/2, 7/16, and 7/30). She will be exploring, researching, and planning curriculum, organizing supply cabinets and the library, and attending important professional development opportunities. She will be at an RE retreat from August 13 through August 16 and will not be at TUS. On Sundays when she is not present, there will be a point person in place for trouble shooting.

## **Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)**

A skill building opportunity for post affirmation youth is taking shape at TUS. We are calling it the Youth Empowerment Program, YEP for short. Youth who have been through affirmation and the training we'll provide later this summer will be given the chance to become part of our paid childcare staff. If you have questions about this model, please reach out to the Jillian, the DRE, at [tusdrejillian@gmail.com](mailto:tusdrejillian@gmail.com) We are excited to offer this program as a way to keep high school youth involved at TUS.



## Separation of Church and State? Yes, it's still there...

Back in early May, the current U.S. president purported to bring back "religious liberty." In broad strokes, he signed an executive order that made moot the Johnson Amendment, basically telling the IRS to use "maximum enforcement discretion" when it comes to implementing the rules against endorsing or opposing political candidates.

This action, along with all the grassroots organizing that has emerged post-election, has meant that liberal religious congregations have had new cause to consider what it means to be political in an ethical way, as well as in a legal way. (Conservative congregations have been bending/breaking the IRS regulations on this for decades, so this is not new territory for them.)

TUS has found itself in confusing situations. Can we rent our space to any of these grassroots organizations advocating on any variety of issues? What about not charge for rent? Of highest import is our values, but after that comes considerations of the law. In particular, the distinction between advocacy (which we are allowed to do) and campaigning (which we are not).

One of the easy ways to think about this distinction is this: does it involve someone running for office? If so, then we cannot do it.

Does it involve someone who is already in office and their platform? Then we can – and should – hold them accountable.

Some examples of no-no's: we cannot have campaign literature for any candidate (unless we have campaign literature for all candidates – then it's considered fair and educational). You may have noticed that in mid-June there was campaign literature in the lobby for All three UUA presidential candidates. We cannot invite one candidate without inviting all the candidates. In fact, on our TUS property, we cannot even ask for signatures for someone running for office (I have had to ask some folks to stop doing this in the sanctuary!)

I raise this issue to you because recently there has been some confusion on this. And because we here in New Jersey are in the midst of an important gubernatorial campaign, so the opportunities necessitating clarity will likely increase. If you have questions or aren't sure, please reach out to me before you make any decisions or invitations.

And just so you know: even though it is now unlikely that the IRS will "ding" us (or any house of worship) for endorsing or opposing, you will not hear from me about who I am voting for. Likely not in a private conversation, and never from the pulpit.

If you want more information, here is a great article published recently in UU World. (<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/resistance-rules>)

~ Rev. Karen





Letter From the Unitarian Universalist As-

sociation -

Central East Region - Congregational Life:

We want to thank these congregations who have achieved Annual Program Fund Honor status for this year!!  
It is through your faithful stewardship that your UUA staff members are able to serve you!  
Find out more at <http://www.uua.org/finance/apf>

**6011 East Brunswick, NJ (MNY)**

In service,  
Andrea Lerner  
Patricia Infante  
Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson

-----  
*We are proud that TUS continues to honor its commitment to our association of congregations with its contribution to the annual fund of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA has been experiencing rough waters this year. Our contribution, along with other congregations' full commitment, helps to ensure it can respond as robustly as possible and help keep Unitarian Universalism both alive and relevant. While we benefit from the association without even knowing it, from the presence of religious education curricula made available online and trouble-shooting, as well as support during transitions of religious leaders, this year we especially benefited when regional staff provided two congregational workshops this year with plans for another this fall.*



**New TUS Social Justice Initiative!**

There is so much happening. It can be hard to stay on top of it all. Some of you have been asking whether we could have an email list of social justice events. So we are trying it out. We are hoping that this curated list of social education, service, and action opportunities will be of use to you. Our aim is to choose the content based on their relation to our UU values and our part in the local community and wider world.

***This is an experi-learn. We are learning as we experiment. Your feedback is most welcome.***

Our hope is that this will be weekly (mostly). To begin, we will send it out to the whole TUS email list. If you would like to be removed from receiving this specific email blast, please click the link at the bottom that unsubscribes you just from this social justice list.

If you would like to contribute opportunities for consideration, please send to [sj.uueastbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:sj.uueastbrunswick@gmail.com). Ideal contributions are electronic, may include a Facebook event link, and are connected our UU values and/or happenings at TUS. We want to include not only one-time events, but also community group meeting times. Please send it by Sunday night. Full disclosure: we cannot promise that everything sent will make it onto the list. To begin with, Kathy Scarbrough will curate, but welcomes others. Thank you, Kathy! We'll check in next fall to see how this is working!

## TUS Summer Schedules

During the months of July and August, our office will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 - 4:30 -- closed on Wednesdays. Of course, if you are hoping to have a conversation with **Megan, our Office Administrator**, it's always best to email or call her to make sure that she is available. The Office will be closed the week of 7/10-14.

Our **Director of Religious Education, Jillian**, will be continuing to work a Wednesday/Friday/Sunday schedule throughout the summer - present at TUS most weeks (the exceptions are 7/16, and 7/30). She will be exploring, researching, and planning curriculum, organizing supply cabinets and the library, and attending important professional development opportunities. She will be at an RE retreat from August 13 through August 16 and will not be at TUS. On Sundays when she is not present, there will be a point person in place for any questions.

**Rev. Karen** will be on leave (both vacation and study leave), starting July 3rd and returning to preach on August 13th and to work on August 15th.



### Keep those Food Donations Coming!

We thank everyone for donating food items to the basket in the lobby (behind the reception desk) this year! We have dropped off 20+ boxes of food items and toiletries since September at the East Brunswick Recreation and Community Services building, a distribution point for the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOODS).

As noted on its website, MCFOODS collects and distributes nonperishable items at no cost to over 80 local food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the County, as well as an additional 25 agencies including: residential facilities, shelters, social service agencies, programs for women and children, senior citizen housing facilities and other outreach services that are also a part of our network.

Some of the most needed nonperishable foods and necessities include rice, tuna fish, peanut butter, vegetables, canned meats, beans, soup and pasta, as well as personal products, baby items and paper goods. (No glass containers, please). The donations are always greatly appreciated!!

Feel free to make food donations to the lobby basket during the summer months. Christina and Jeff Siebens will taking care of getting the food to the Community Center while we are away. (Thank you Jeff and Christina!)

*Thank you, Paula Lieb & Jim Lieb*





## TREASURERS TIDBITS

Bob Munson

**You May Have Wondered:** What is the Minister’s Discretionary Fund? When someone within TUS or wider community needs emergency food, lodging or other needs, they often find their way to asking Rev. Karen for help, who relies on the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. It’s used to purchase supermarket gift cards (Scrip) to pay for food or the Minister pays directly for lodging, rent, utilities or some basic survival item. She vouchers her out of pocket expenses for reimbursement. The Minister doesn’t identify the need – it is by her discretion. Every Christmas the Cash in Basket replenishes the fund, but now more is needed. Your donation to the fund (write “MDF” on the check memo line) then reaches those in need in our community. Thank you.

### 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](mailto:grenthum@gmail.com)



### 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.



### Cash In Basket for June

July 2 & 16 - Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

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

July 9 & 30 - ProPublica

<http://www.propublica.org>

July 23 - TBA





# Gratitude Prayer Flag Garden

**is coming to TUS**

**stay tuned  
for more info  
mark September 10  
on your calendar**

## Ministry Sponsoring!

We are very excited to announce that the board has agreed that TUS will be the official congregational sponsor for these two fabulous humans who are on the path to become ministers: Alia Shinbrough and Francesca Cipriani.

This is a requirement for anyone on the path to become a UU minister. The purpose is to ensure familiarity on the part of new ministers with UU congregational life, and encourage congregations to take a responsible role in the recruitment, preparation and assessment of our future ministers. It has no financial obligation associated with it.

It is a source of pride for us to be able to provide a spiritual home as these two folks move through the ministerial formation process.





Wednesday, August 30  
5:15 - 7ish pm

1. Bring school supplies & new backpacks for kids in need. List of what to get will be in our August weekly emails and on our web site.
2. Eat pizza together. Catch up with your TUS friends before the first day of school. Invite other friends to come along.
3. Celebrate the impulse to learn & the joy of curiosity by blessing the backpacks -- the ones we are giving away and our own (so be sure to bring yours).

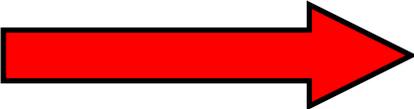
ALL  
AGES  
WELCOME!



Thinking about becoming a member?

Want to learn interesting things about UUs?

Want to welcome and get to know new folks?



**You, UU & TUS:  
A workshop**

**Saturday, 9:30 - 1:30  
November 4, 2017**

**OR**

**Sundays, 12:15 - 2:15  
April 8 & 15, 2018**

PATH  
TO  
MEMBERSHIP

just want to know more about TUS or Unitarian Universalism?

required if you want to become a member of TUS



# TUS Happenings

## Buddhist Meditation Group

The schedule for the Buddhist Meditation Group will be changing for the summer. Please note that we will be meeting once per month.

We will meet next on **July 9 at 12:15 pm.**

Next on **Aug 20 at 12:15 pm,** with Rev Allen will be leading the service.

As always, all adults are welcome to join us. No registration or experience is required.

Any questions? Contact Jackie Held-Rubin at [Jacalyn21@aol.com](mailto:Jacalyn21@aol.com)



## Art Exploration Group

Art Exploration Group will meet Wednesdays, **July 12 and 26** at 7pm.

Join us and try your hand at drawing, painting and collages to name a few.



## Shakespeare Reading Group

The Shakespeare Reading Group will take a break for the summer. Our meetings will resume September 12. Thanks to all who participated this year! Have a wonderful summer!

Please contact the TUS Office at [ututus@comcast.net](mailto:ututus@comcast.net) to let us know if your group will be on break or having meetings, for the summer months.

after the service, there'll be cool drinks, light snacks & fine fellowship

if you need a caffeinated drink, feel free to bring your own!

this summer it's  
**TRAVEL MUG  
SUNDAY  
SERVICES**

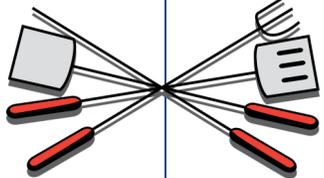
The advertisement features a background image of several travel mugs in various colors (black, silver, white) lined up on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a mix of white and black fonts. A pink rectangular box on the right side contains the text 'this summer it's TRAVEL MUG SUNDAY SERVICES'. Below this, the text 'after the service, there'll be cool drinks, light snacks & fine fellowship' is written in a white, cursive-style font. At the bottom, a black rounded rectangle contains the text 'if you need a caffeinated drink, feel free to bring your own!' in a white, serif font.

# TUS CALENDAR

For The Fridge



# JULY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:30 am Sunday Service	31 					1 9:00 am Leadership Retreat
2 10:30 am Sunday Service	3 Rev. Karen on leave 7/3—8/11 →	4  Independence Day	5	6 	7	8 
9 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service 6:00 pm Buddhist Meditation Group	10 Office Closed 7/10—7/14 →	11 	12 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab	13 4:30 pm Elijah's Promise	14 	15
16 10:30 am Sunday Service	17 	18 7:30 pm TUS Board Meeting	19 Newsletter Due	20	21 	22
23 10:30 am Sunday Service	24 	25	26 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab 7:00 pm Committee on Ministries	27	28	29 

The Unitarian Society,  
a Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
176 Tices Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
732.246.3113  
www.unitariansociety.org  
#ueastbrunswick

*Welcome All Into Our House*

**NEWSLETTER FACTS:** The deadline for the August 2016 newsletter is **Tuesday, July 25th.**

Leave a submission in the newsletter box in the TUS office or send by email to [uutus@comcast.net](mailto:uutus@comcast.net).

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements are sent out on Wednesday afternoon. Please submit your information to [uutus@comcast.net](mailto:uutus@comcast.net) no later than Tuesday.

**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](mailto:jacalyn21@aol.com), the chair of the Membership Committee.

### THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY

President	Linda Jay	<a href="mailto:lindamjay@comcast.net">lindamjay@comcast.net</a>
Vice President		Kathy Scarbrough
Treasurer		Bob Munson
Secretary		Vacant
Trustee		Clif Ashcraft
Trustee		Doug Liebau
Trustee		Rich Phelan
Trustee		Eldridge Dunn
Youth Representative		Vacant
Montessori School Board Rep.		Marty Mussman

### UNITARIAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD

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

### TUS STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Karen G. Johnston, Minister—[revkarentus@gmail.com](mailto:revkarentus@gmail.com)

Megan Britton, Office Administrator—[uutus@comcast.net](mailto:uutus@comcast.net)

Jillian Post, Director of Religious Education—[tusdrejillian@gmail.com](mailto:tusdrejillian@gmail.com)

Michael Stein, Acting Music Coordinator—[mike.stein.music@gmail.com](mailto:mike.stein.music@gmail.com)

Susanne Biancamano, UMS Director—[sbiacamano@comcast.net](mailto:sbiacamano@comcast.net)

*Rev. Karen is available for Pastoral Care by appointment. Please contact her at [revkarentus@gmail.com](mailto: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.*