

Rev. Karen G. Johnston  
Minister

Jillian Post  
Director,  
Religious Education

Nicholas Place  
Music Coordinator

Linda Jay  
President  
Board of Trustees

# The Unitarian Society, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
732.246.3113

www.unitariansociety.org

#ueeastbrunswick

## Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

**February 4, 2018**

### **Our Roots in Unexpected Ground: Torda 450**

**Rev. Karen G. Johnston**

2018 marks the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, the defining document of Unitarianism and religious tolerance. Did you know that our faith has been around that long? Maybe. Did you know that we have always been voice for religious pluralism? Perhaps. We'll explore our early roots, including their connection to – and this might surprise you – Islam, as well as the call to remain connected in this era of increasing Islamophobia.

*Guest musician: Daniel Linblom, Music Director Emeritus*

**February 11, 2018**

### **Gratitude: A Source of Good Rev. Rosemarie Newberry**

Growing our souls can be a mission of a Unitarian Universalist congregation. "Living with Gratitude" has been suggested as one characteristic of spiritual maturity. And gratitude has incredible power to also change the world. Let's change ourselves and change the world with gratitude.

*The Rev. Rosemarie Newberry serves as a chaplain for adults with disabilities at one of NJ's 5 institutions. This month she celebrates her 10 year anniversary there. She is the affiliated community minister at our Lincroft, NJ congregation. She is also a NJ state certified Disaster Recovery Crisis Counselor and Chaplain.*

**February 18, 2018**

### **Surprise! Rev. Karen G. Johnston**

Rev. Karen will be preaching. Nick will be playing the piano. The rest? I guess you'll have to come to find out! :)

**February 25, 2018**

### **Generosity's Heart: Sharing Stories of Doing Good**

**Rev. Karen G. Johnston**

Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away, love is something if you give it away, you end up having more. (Malvina Reynolds) On January 14, we gave out cash and asked people to Do Good, Magnify the Power, Tell them it's from TUS, and come back to Share Stories. Today's service will raise up generosity – how it might change the world, how it definitely transforms us.



### **Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, February 18th**

#### **Agenda:**

**Update from the Building Task Force  
Presentation of the first draft of  
the 2018-19 budget**



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# Musings from Your Minister:

At our Sunday service on January 21, we held a Promise & Practice service, as hundreds of UU congregations have committed to doing, in response to an ask by the Unitarian Universalist Association. You can read more about it [here](#). The service consisted of elements, all of which were written by Black Unitarian Universalists.

One element was a Ritual of Lamentation and Intention, crafted by the former interim minister of this congregation, Reverend Carol Thomas Cissel. At one of four stations, congregants were invited to write their hopes and fears. We ended up with 36 hopes and 17 fears. Here are some of them:

## FEARS

*I fear that others will continue to be hurt, misjudged and mistreated in my current state of ignorance and while my eyes are opening up.*

*That we don't do enough to move forward, and not repeat our mistakes.*

*That I and those around me will settle in complacency.*

*I fear I may make a racist remark/behavior.*

*That our country will take a long time to recover from damage done.*

## HOPES

*Hope for caring, respect and awareness that we turn towards inclusivity and equity.*

*That I continue to learn to see with different eyes, so that I may not only be a better, more observant witness, a more informative advocate, a more authentic friend to all those in my life who do not look like me.*

*That current movements (BLM, #metoo, etc.) will have the impact they intend to and bring people of all backgrounds together.*

*Hope that UU will fulfill their promise of inclusiveness.*

*This will be a lasting change in UU.*

*This nation wakes up one day.*

*That people of good intention will act to change things.*

All of the hopes and all of the fears were powerful. So many of them reflect authenticity and a willingness to be vulnerable; I feel deep gratitude for this. I felt honored to set aside time to read them all – to have this tender window into our shared heart. One hope and one fear, two sides of the same coin, made my breath catch, because I know the echoes of both deep in my soul:

**I fear I am too broken to move beyond my own struggles and help others.**

**I hope I will have the strength to do what I know I must do – to ensure my grandchildren don't face hate...**

*Read those two again. Slowly. Without distraction. Say them aloud. They are poignant. They are real.*

None of us is alone. Not in our brokenness or our fear of our brokenness. Not in our hopes for a better world for those who come after us, for those with whom we share this planet. We are in this together. It is the collective nature of our hopes and fears that is the warp and weave of the interdependent web. This is where we bring awareness to our shared past and where we co-create our shared future. None of us is alone. We need each other to survive.

I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

*Rev. Karen*





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



FROM YOUR DRE, JILLIAN POST

Religious Education classes continued the message from the Sunday service on January 21<sup>st</sup>, entitled "The Promise and the Practice". Here are photos of the RE kids learning about mending broken chalices (Children's adaptation of this concept by Jae Pema-la Scott and Erika Hewitt.)



Carrying the mended chalice made of modeling clay.



Close up of Rainbow Connection's mended chalice.

The Signs of Our Faith class was intrigued with the project.



## Wording Matters

On Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Karen and I attended a day-long presentation by the leaders at Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, NJ. They enlisted our feedback as they prepared a workshop on Family Ministry. I was intrigued by their change in wording for what we here at TUS call, "One Room Schoolhouse." They have changed the language to more reflect what truly happens on Sundays when we have all ages of children learning together. They call it "Spirit Lab" and have also renamed Religious Education as *Religious Exploration*. Other UU congregations have also experimented with renaming the program as *Family Faith Formation*. As an RE program, we will be considering some name changes as we prepare to embrace an expanded vision for our congregation. This also reflects some of what will be discussed during our Town Hall on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Read more about that in this newsletter article called "Town Hall – Preparing for the Future."



## TUS Town Hall – Preparing for the Future

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, directly after services, I will host a Town Hall format that will include some information, some interesting slides, and plenty of time for discussion as we get up to speed with some of the changes happening in our faith tradition. It will be a more fruitful exchange if we can get a large representation of our beloved community here at TUS, so please plan to attend. Look for the posters spread around the building on some of the provocative questions and information we will explore!

## It's the Small Stuff – Maybe?

What does it mean to be family friendly? What does it take to help connect the congregation as a whole with the RE program? Maybe little things help that happen. You may have noticed the new toy chest with soft toys appropriate for the sanctuary. Perhaps you have noticed the colorful clipboards with crayons and activity booklets for our youngest congregants. Soon we'll have step stools in the bathrooms to help little ones reach the sinks. Do these things really make a difference? We hope they send a message to all that TUS loves our kids and babies and we welcome them all!



## DRE Participating in a Safer Congregations 6-part Webinar

On the heels of a webinar called "The Death of Sunday School" (wow, that's quite the title, right?) ... I am now taking another webinar about Safer Congregations. Both are being facilitated by long time UU Kim Sweeney, who is now blessing us with organizational insight in a private business she calls, *Courageous Faith Consulting*. Kim has amassed a wealth of knowledge and presents the information in such a well-organized fashion. I am taking notes, and I hope this helps me be better prepared for the unforeseen things that might come down the pike.



## Mystery Pals Program and Brunch

By the time you read this, some congregants will have been matched with some of our RE kids in a program UUs call Mystery Pals. Messages designed to help us get to know more about each other (inter-generationally) are left on the RE section of the bulletin board in the lobby. Then we celebrate the wrap of the program on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> with a yummy brunch. Thank you to all the families and congregants for carrying on this time honored tradition!!





### Stewardship Season

**February 1 through April 30** is Stewardship Season, when we reflect on our financial care of this place to ensure its vibrancy now and into the future.

One of the responsibilities of membership is to fulfill a financial pledge each year to sustain the work of this place. We know that there are some who are giving all they can. For you, we thank you and are blessed by your presence.

We know that there are others who might give more, knowing that we are the only ones who will give to sustain this place -- while other worthy causes may have a large donor base, we know who our donor base is: it is each of you, a small and mighty group of people committed to this congregation.

Please save **March 4** in your calendar, whether friend or member, to attend our annual Canvass Breakfast.

#### NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS IN SEMINARY

Dear TUS Community,

Recently, I visited with Reverend Karen this January break. I like her; good choice ;) As I took the jug handle off 18 and on to Tices Lane, I started to get an excited feeling. As I walked up the steps, a wave of happy nostalgia crashed over me. TUS means a lot to me. I may be far away at school, but being at this congregation with a year and a half of school under my belt gave me the perspective I needed to appreciate how meaningful TUS is to me.

I remember driving up to TUS for the first time. Through a sea of suburbia emerged this island of forest! I felt it was a sign that these people get it. After the service, I cried on the drive back to Rutgers Campus, feeling that I had finally found my people. I was right, I had. This was not the first UU congregation I had visited, but it was the right size and the right warmth. Soon TUS became my home congregation. When I signed the congregation's membership book, I remember the faces of those around me celebrating this profound moment with me.

Having this congregation agree to sponsor me is an honor. Everything that I will achieve as a minister will be a shared success with the TUS community. You keep me grounded like the beautiful stones outside near the steps. I gave my first sermon at TUS. I was nervous and inexperienced; you welcomed me and took me seriously. I took a UU preaching class this semester and I did better in the class than I otherwise would have because I had experience preaching before. You empower me and support me in taking my first steps into my ministry. When I question this faith, my memories of you have guided this lover of leaving back home.

~ Francesca Cipriani



Throughout the month of February, you can post your story of Doing Good with the money from our Reverse Offering -- do it on this Facebook page made especially for it: <https://www.facebook.com/TheUnitarianSociety/> or on the bulletin board in the lobby (old school style: write out your story and pin it up).



### REVERSE OFFERING & DOING GOOD

Were you here on Sunday, Jan 14 to receive money from the congregation to go out and do good? Here are the rules for this reverse offering:

- 1) **Do Good** by giving it away.
- 2) **Magnify the Power** (strongly encouraged): Join your offering with others to grow its impact. Match it with your own money. Ask your friends/family. See if your online communities will join in with their generosity.
- 3) **Tell Them It's from TUS** – either directly or with a sticker provided (optional).
- 4) **Tell Your Story**: At our **February 25** service, there will be a chance to share stories of Doing Good.

Not sure what to do with the money? Look at this short video from Live Oak Unitarian Universalist in Cedar Park, TX: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwXFuHqetEM>. Or take a look at the postings on this Facebook page at the congregation Rev. Karen used to serve: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1174100259274468/>.

When you have Done Good and want to share your story about it, there are three ways (you can do 1, 2, or all 3):

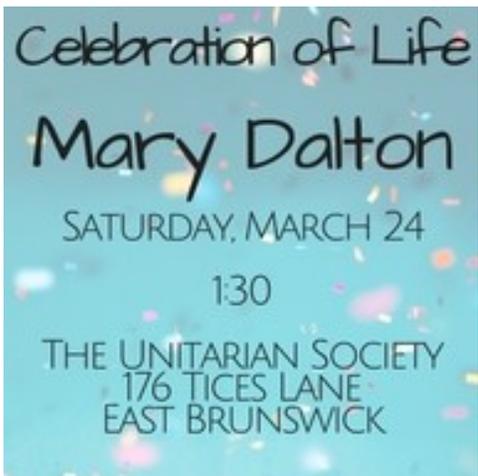
1. Post your story (and pics) here: <https://www.facebook.com/TheUnitarianSociety/>
2. Write your story and put it on the bulletin board in the lobby of TUS after **February 1**
3. Come to our **February 25** service to share your story

**Sharing Our Stories:  
Generosity Doin' Good\***

\*from our Reverse Offering

**Sunday  
February 25  
10:30**

The Unitarian Society  
175 Tices Lane  
East Brunswick



Update

### Restroom Inclusivity Task Force

Members:  
Ryan Bartynski  
Stephanie Sasso  
Lynn Fryer

It will be up to this task force to develop what the signs look like and how to implement the change to permanent inclusive signage

The image shows two restroom signs mounted on a wooden wall. The left sign features icons for a man and a woman, with the text "FRIENDLY FOR ALL GENDERS" below. The right sign features icons for a man, a woman, and a transgender figure, with the text "FRIENDLY FOR ALL GENDERS" below.

### Making Visible the Presence of People of Color and LGBTQ Folk at TUS

Last spring, you might remember that as a denomination, Unitarian Universalism began to pay much closer attention to the patterns of how racial bias continue to be perpetuated in our association. Here at TUS, we have been paying attention to this in many ways; being one of over 700 congregations that held a White Supremacy Teach-In last spring, and by bringing this topic to several of our Sunday services, as well as other programming.

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association asks congregations for basic information, such as membership numbers, children/youth enrolled in RE, and average weekly Sunday attendance. This year, they are asking for additional information as part of its efforts to dismantle white supremacy. For the first time, they are asking for congregations to provide an estimated percentage of the number of members who self-identify as a person of color and who self-identify along the continuum as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer.

While this may be information that we know about each other from being in conversation with each other, this is not information that we currently have the means to collect. Conveying this information to the UUA is typically the responsibility of the Membership Committee, which expressed concerns about giving this information to the UUA. One of the questions asked that no one on the Membership Committee felt they could answer: how do people who self-identify as a person of color or as LGBTQ feel about this?

So, if you identify as a person of color, or as gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans/queer, the Membership Committee and Rev. Karen are interested in your point of view.

**You & TUS:  
A Workshop**

PATH  
TO  
MEMBERSHIP

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

just want to know  
more about TUS or  
Unitarian Universalism?

child care provided  
with advanced registration

strongly recommended to  
become a member of TUS

**RSVP to Jackie Held-Rubin at  
JACALYN21@aol.com or 908-881-4553  
prior to April 1st**



### Weather Preparations

If there is a state of emergency, the service will automatically be cancelled.

At other times, Rev. Karen and the Board chair, will consult about the weather.

Otherwise, keep a look out on our **web site**, our **Facebook page**, and for an **email** to everyone currently on our email list -- if we are closing or cancelling service, we will announce it in all those places, aiming to have the word out no later than 9am.

If we do cancel the Sunday service, a link will be sent out that day on Facebook and in the email to the congregation, if you would like to join the virtual service on Zoom.

Sharing our Facebook posts with your connections increases the number of people that see them.

If everyone followed the TUS page and shared each of our posts at least once, thousands of people would see our message, our audience would increase, we would spread interest in our programs and services and increase the potential for new donations.

**Please help us by liking our page and sharing our posts!**



If you're reading this newsletter digitally, please click [here](#) to tell Reverend Karen G. Johnston about it! Just tell her, "Hi! I'm reading the newsletter!"

**The 2018 Directory of Members and Friends** has been published and can be picked up at the Welcome Table before or after services on Sunday, or can be mailed to you if you have been unable to make it in to TUS recently.





**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**St. Patrick's Day  
Celebration  
and Fellowship**

Saturday March 17, 2018  
5pm to 9pm

Traditional Irish treats, music, and  
dancing. There will be games and crafts  
for the kids.



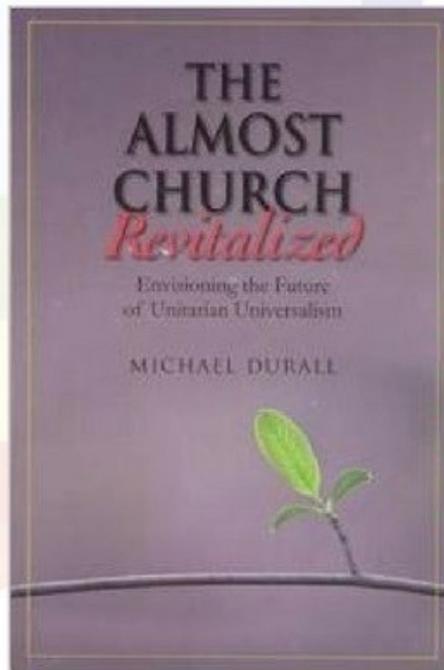
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- 2/7 Community Meeting—Memorial to Victims of VanWickle Slave Ring (see pg 9)
- 2/18 Congregational Meeting (see pg1) -- Presentation of Budget
- 2/25 Mystery Pals Luncheon (see pg3)
- 3/4 Canvass Breakfast (morning) (pg4)
- 3/4 Death Cafe (late afternoon)
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day Fellowship Fest
- 3/25 Town Hall: Death of Sunday School

Reverend Karen will be leading a covenantal reflection group based on the book, Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone by Brené Brown. We will meet for two hours over lunch on the third Friday of each month, February - June, reading 1-2 chapters, reflecting on the material, and integrating it into our lives. Space is limited to 8 participants.

To take part, you must register with Rev. Karen by **2/13** via email. This group will be open to the community if we do not fill all the slots by **2/1**.

**Spiritual Nourishment  
for Leaders**



On **February 6**, we will be reading chapter 3, "Leadership Makes It or Breaks It."

If you haven't attended yet, you can still join up. There's a copy of the book we are reading, Mike Durrall's, "The Almost Church Revitalized" in Rev. Karen's mailbox.

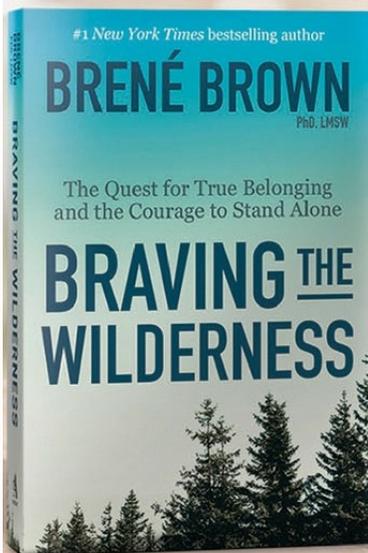
We meet 6:30 -8:00 -- bring your own dinner with you, and we'll break bread and share our thoughts with each other.

**CHALICE CIRCLE**

A READING & REFLECTION GROUP

3RD FRIDAYS

FEB - JUNE 11 AM - 1PM



**must register  
ahead of time  
space limited**

facilitated by  
Reverend Karen G. Johnston

**open to the community**

The Unitarian Society  
176 Tices Lane, East  
Brunswick

to register, email by 2/13  
revkarentus@gmail.com



## TREASURER'S TIDBITS

Bob Munson

**You May Have Wondered:** What is the UUA? What is the APF? “UUA” is the Unitarian Universalist Association ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)), the nationwide denomination headquarters. UUA publishes the UU World (contact our office if you're not getting it), helps UU congregations find new ministers and guides UU ministers in their learning and careers. “APF” is the Annual Program Fund (think “pledge”) for the UUA and the “Central East Region” (CER). TUS has supported the UUA & CER in the past by \$89/member dues. But starting in 2018-19 TUS budget, we will be asked to contribute a percentage of church expenses. So it's a change in formula. We're looking over the impact to TUS.

### 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 February

Feb 4 & 11 - Reformed Church at Highland Park  
Special Fund for Immigrant Rights  
[Http://www.rchighlandpark.org](http://www.rchighlandpark.org)

Feb 18 & 25 - Partners in Health  
<http://www.pih.org>



This congregation is great. And this congregation is on the verge of greatness. In support of the ongoing health and future sustainability of this Society, we are choosing more transparency. This comes in many forms. Last spring, with the Finance Committee's endorsement, the Board of Trustees voted to allow the minister, the board president, and the treasurer to know the details of our financial resources, including information about pledging.

For some, it may be a surprise to know that the minister was in the dark in this regard. For others, it is a change, and may well cause some discomfort. I want to make sure you know that this is considered best practice in congregations. At the end of January, I spent a week learning about financial stewardship in congregations. It's so clear that there is much for me to learn and much for all of us to learn.

As we move into our active canvass season (Feb 1 through April 30, with a vote on our annual budget on May 20), I welcome conversations with you about all of this.

~ Rev. Karen



### TUS now has a YouTube Channel



Did you miss last week's sermon? Not to worry; you can now watch the sermon on our very own YouTube Channel. Go to the website ([www.unitariansociety.org](http://www.unitariansociety.org)) and click on YouTube Channel on the top menu.

Most sermons will be posted here along with videos from other TUS activities. Check back often!

### **TUS Office Hours for 2018 are:**

**Monday—Friday, 10am-4:30pm**

Be on the look out! In the near future we will be starting a system for lobby space reservation on Sundays to ease the competition for space with our growing, more active congregation.

If you're reading this newsletter digitally, please click [here](#) to tell Reverend Karen G. Johnston about it! Just tell her, “Hi! I'm reading the newsletter!”

**UU FaithAction NJ**



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A  
**"NEW LEGISLATIVE POSSIBILITIES "**  
**CONFERENCE**  
(CENTRAL NJ CONGREGATIONS)

**TOPICS TO INCLUDE:** POTENTIAL LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS,  
DRIVERS LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS,  
STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STATE USAGE OF RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SOURCES, AND MORE.

**DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2018**

**TIME: 12:15 — 3:15 PM**

**VENUE: THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF  
PRINCETON**

**50 CHERRY HILL ROAD  
PRINCETON, NJ 08540-7626**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**



**RSVP BY JAN 29TH 2018**

TO QU'A'DERHA WILLIAMS UU FAITHACTION NJ ADMINISTRATOR  
ADMIN@UULMNJ.ORG OR 973-908-0211

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION WILL BE WELCOME**



INFORM the community about the East Brunswick Van Wickle Slave Ring of 1818.

INSPIRE us to memorialize these nearly 100 African Americans

INVOLVE more community members in building a public memorial.

Come to his panel discussion with Q& A and community building. At this time in our nation's history when we are rethinking our national monuments, let's do something constructive. Let us build a memorial those people who were sent into permanent slavery by the dastardly deeds of Judge Jacob Van Wickle in 1818. Let's make East Brunswick be the community that chooses to build memorials that go against systemic racism, like slavery and its legacy.

Panelists:

Rich Walling, Independent Scholar/Historian  
Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers University  
Derek Davis, Camden County Historical Society  
Representative, New Brunswick NAACP

# TOWN HALL

## WITH THE MAYOR of East Brunswick

### Redevelopment of Route 18

Thursday, Feb 27 7pm  
The Unitarian Society  
176 Tices Lane  
East Brunswick

Open to  
the Public



#### Get Your Tickets to "Equipping Resistance"

2018 UU Christian Fellowship Revival is **March 16-17** at the First UU Church of Richmond, Virginia, and you're invited! The theme is "Equipping Resistance," and we will provide theological and spiritual grounding for people engaged in any way in the Resistance.

In addition to incredible speakers, we'll have a hymn-sing, a documentary screening, plus delicious food and time to reflect and connect. We're honored to have the powerful gospel choir Rev. D. Kay Logan & Nu Beginning before we open for baptism. Two days that will make your entire year. Plus, buy your tickets **before Feb 1st** and save \$20!

[www.uchristian.org/revival2018](http://www.uchristian.org/revival2018)

A poster for the 2018 UU Christian Fellowship Revival. The background is dark purple with a gold border. At the top, it says 'REVIVAL 2018' in gold. Below that, 'EQUIPPING RESISTANCE' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, 'RICHMOND, VA' and 'MARCH 16 - 17, 2018' are written in gold. The bottom left corner features the Unitarian Universalist logo and the text 'unitarianuniversalist CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP freely following Jesus'. The bottom right corner has 'freely following Jesus' in a script font. The poster is decorated with several yellow and white fireworks exploding in the corners.



**As a member of the Interfaith Rise coalition of community- and faith-based organizations, we share this information in hopes that you or someone you know might be of assistance.**

Dear Interfaith-RISE,

Your incredible support has been making a tremendous difference in the lives of our refugee families. On behalf of our new Americans looking for work, I wanted to reach out to see if you or a company you know is looking to hire. In this age, when almost everything is done online, the best jobs are still found through personal network connections. Our families are new here and are still building their networks.

Please, contact me at [goodin.jen@gmail.com](mailto:goodin.jen@gmail.com) or [908-507-3823](tel:908-507-3823) if you come across any opportunities. Below, please see the limited profiles of some of our current friends now seeking work. If you have a specific job for one of them, I can forward their resume and will give that person your contact information and have them connect with you directly. Thank you so much for your help.

**Client A:** A very hard-working and fast-learning Afghan living in Edison. Although his English is very limited, he has shown great intelligence and motivation in his ESL classes and in work he has done for RCHP. While not yet ready for customer-interaction, Client A would be suitable for physical tasks that can be demonstrated to him. He has some experience in construction, general maintenance, and shoe-making. He has done some painting jobs in the US, to the great satisfaction of those contracting him.

**Client B:** A young Afghan, currently in Old Bridge, with a college degree from Afghanistan with experience in warehouse logistics and retail. He has also been a computer teacher and a translator of Farsi, Pashto, and Urdu to English. He is currently employed as an assistant store manager, but we are always looking for job upgrades. He has a driver's license and a car.

**Client C:** A young Afghan, currently in Highland Park, with a college degree from Afghanistan, who has experience in IT. He is very computer-savvy. He would like to continue his college education in the US, with a particular interest in computer science. He is also a reliable translator.

**Client D:** A young Afghan, currently in Highland Park, with experience in a variety of office positions, including work at a gym, a bank, and in government. He is recovering from a shoulder injury and, at present, is unable to perform any strenuous/heavy lifting tasks. He has a driver's license and a car. He would like to work, but is also interested in continuing his education.

**Client E:** An Afghan woman, currently in Highland Park, with experience in NGO's and community organizing. In Afghanistan, she worked with various organizations to promote economic development and women's empowerment. She networked with government officials, corporations, and banks to create internships and get loans for women entrepreneurs.

**Client F:** A young Afghan, currently in Highland Park, with a substantial career working as a military translator. After serving with the US military, he became a bank manager in Afghanistan. He is recovering from a back injury and, at present, is unable to perform any strenuous/heavy lifting tasks. He is extremely personable and diplomatic. He is open to any type of job (that is not too physically-demanding), but has the most experience in banking.

We are very grateful for any connections you can help us make in order to help get these families working and self-sufficient.

Many thanks,

Jen Goodin, Refugee Employment Services, JFS of Middlesex County and Interfaith-RISE

# TUS Happenings



## Buddhist Meditation Group

The Buddhist Meditation Group will meet on  
**Sunday, Feb 4 at 12:15 pm.**

We will listen to an audio recording of a chapter in Jack Kornfield's book, *The Wise Heart*, and discuss it, and sit together in meditation.

We will not meet on **February 18**, as would be our usual schedule, because there is a Congregational Meeting taking place after the service that day.

On **Sunday, March 11**, Rev Wells returns as our teacher. We will meet at 12:15 pm.

All adults are welcome to join us, just drop in.  
We are a friendly group!

## Socrates Café®



Come and join our exploration of life's most profound and universal questions. More than just a conversation, we use Socrates' questioning approach to explore and challenge our assumptions, broaden our understanding, and consider different viewpoints relating to an infinite number of philosophical questions.

It's a great time for mental stimulation and fellowship. A rare chance to exercise your mind and challenge your thinking – just for the fun of it.

Socrates Café® takes place the second Sunday of every month

Next Meeting: **Sunday, Feb. 11**

Bagels & Coffee at 8:30 AM

Discussion Starts at 9:00AM - Ends at 10:00AM

Questions: Contact Doug at:  
dougriebau@gmail.org



## Art Exploration Group

Meets Wednesdays  
at 7pm in classroom 8  
**2/7, 2/21**  
weather permitting

## Souper Sunday

Join us for our next Souper Sunday on  
**February 11!**



**Thank you to the soup makers and the soup lovers, as we raised \$97.50 from Souper Sunday last month!**

Our soup makers have served up some fabulous soups each year and this is a great way to raise some money for TUS while also warming up your belly. Souper Sunday is usually the second Sunday of each month and is served right after the Sunday service. We can always use new soup makers, so please contact Carol Church at car227ol@hotmail.com if you want to share your soup making talents!

## Shakespeare Reading Group



We're Back! After a break in January, the Shakespeare Reading Group will resume its regular schedule. We will meet **Tuesdays, Feb. 13 & Feb. 27 at 7:30 PM** at The Unitarian Society. We will be reading "Pericles." Please bring a copy of the play. Please contact Harriet Lindblom (732-846-3395 or Dhindblom@aol.com) if attending for the first time or for more info. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## Women's Group

Meeting **Thursday 2/22 at 1pm**  
weather permitting, TUS classroom.  
Contact Joyce Browning for more info.



# TUS CALENDAR

For The Fridge



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday Service</p> <p>12:15 pm Buddhist Meditation Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 pm Philomusica</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm Art Experience Lab</p> <p>7:30 pm Sunday Service Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>4:30 pm Elijah's Promise</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 am Socrates Cafe</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p>12:00 pm Souper Sunday</p> <p>12:15 pm RE Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 pm Philomusica</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Racial Justice Team</p> <p>7:00 pm UMS Board</p> <p>7:30 pm Shakespeare Reading Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Valentine's Day</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00 pm Carolyn Powell Memorial</p> <p>7:00 pm Sent Down The River</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p><b>12:00 pm Congregational Meeting</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 pm Philomusica</p> <p><b>President's Day</b> <i>TUS Office Closed</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 pm TUS Board Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 pm Art Experience Lab</p> <p><b>Newsletter Due</b></p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00 pm Women's Group</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday Service</p> <p>12:00 pm Mystery Pals Brunch</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 pm Philomusica</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 pm Shakespeare Reading Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Mayoral Town Hall</p>	<p>28</p>			

The Unitarian Society,  
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*Welcome All Into Our House*

**NEWSLETTER FACTS:** The deadline for the March 2018 newsletter is **Wednesday, February 21st**. 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 10:00 am 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 Office Administrator, Megan, at [uutus@comcast.net](mailto:uutus@comcast.net).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEKLY:** The list is sent typically on Tuesday. Please send suggested events or meetings to [sj.ueeastbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:sj.ueeastbrunswick@gmail.com) no later than Monday evening.

### THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY

President	Linda Jay
Vice President	Kathy Scarbrough
Treasurer	Bob Munson
Secretary	Barbara Kubey
Trustee	Clif Ashcraft
Trustee	Doug Liebau
Trustee	Rich Phelan
Trustee	Eldridge Dunn
Youth Representative	Vacant
Montessori School Board Chair	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

### TUS STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

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

Nick Place, Music Coordinator— [NickPlaceTUS@gmail.com](mailto:NickPlaceTUS@gmail.com)

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



If you're not receiving your Wednesday weekly emails or newsletter by email, check your secondary email boxes, such as junk, promotions, social, to make sure the emails aren't going there. If you're still not receiving emails, and should, or want to, please reach out to Megan, the Office Administrator, at [uutus@comcast.net](mailto:uutus@comcast.net) to add you to the email list.

Rev. Karen is available for Pastoral Care 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. Please go to this link to make an appointment: [calendly.com/revkarentus](https://calendly.com/revkarentus) For emergencies, call or text.