Rev. Karen G. Johnston Minister

Jillian Post Director, Religious Education

Nicholas Place Music Coordinator

Linda Jay President Board of Trustees



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## The Unitarian Society, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 732.246.3113 www.unitariansociety.org #uueastbrunswick

#### Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

March 4, 2018 For All That Is Our Life Rev. Karen G. Johnston

Our annual canvass breakfast where we will celebrate the opportunity to sustain this vibrant congregation through song, speech, food, and fun. We all start together, eat together, then the children get to hang out with a magician while we engage in the loving act of financial stewardship.



March 11, 2018 Failure is Our Only Option Rev. Karen G. Johnston

"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better." (Samuel Beckett) Is it possible that failure, the thing we dread and strive so hard to avoid, can be our best friend and surest teacher? What might happen if we befriend failure, rather than fear it? More importantly, given how swift change is afoot in our society, what happens if we don't learn to see failure as the positive source of information, innovation, and life?

Guest musician: Daniel Lindblom, Music Director Emeritus

#### March 18, 2018 Hol(E)y Reflections: Our Mysterious, Funny, Changing, Beautiful Bodies Brianna Mussman

How do we talk about our bodies changing throughout our lives? And what does that mean as Unitarian Universalists? This service brings Brianna Mussman back to TUS to talk about things we often only whisper about--sex and sexuality.

Brianna Mussman grew up in the congregation and is a member. In the process of applying to medical school, she works for Children's Aid in Staten Island as a health educator, talking to high school students about reproductive health issues. Little known fact: her favorite part of New Jersey is not having to pump her own gas! This is the first time she is filling our pulpit since she gave her Affirmation credo in 2008 and she is thrilled to be back.

#### March 25, 2018 What We Lost 50 Years Ago: Reflections on Dr. King Rev. Karen G. Johnston

On April 4, we mark 50 years since the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While we often spend time talking about Dr. King's legacy on the holiday named after him, or in February during Black History Month, our faith movement's call to attend to the legacy of racism and the urgent need to dismantle white supremacy in our midst, we'll reflect on this half-century marker with humility and intention.

## **Musings from Your Minister:**

Can you believe it's March already? Time is just moving so fast. Sometimes I jump on board. Sometimes it drags me along. Sometimes – more often – I need to get off this merry-go-round.

Since I've moved to New Jersey, I have found that the best way for me to do this – to slow down – is to go to the Ken Lockwood Gorge in High Bridge. That place just slows me down and soothes my soul. I haven't been there so often this winter – I find it harder to get outside in this harsher season, though I know it's not impossible. I struggle, and often fail, to find the will within me to go against my temperament, which is to stay indoors.

Even in good weather I don't get there often enough. I resent that I have to drive forty minutes to get there. But every time, it is worth it.

How about you? Do you have a place you can go to slow yourself down? To take yourself out of the rush and ramble? Do you have a way to disconnect from the craze and reconnect with yourself? I hope so. I'd love to hear about it. In fact, can you drop me a quick email to let me know what you do to slow down? Maybe I'll be able to expand my slow-down toolkit.

I know that I need to build some slow time into my life at the parsonage and my work days at TUS. The pace of life here in New Jersey at this point in the 21st century works against this, but it is crucial: the stakes are high and I am in this for the long haul. I wonder if I can take into my heart this paradoxical advice I first encountered from my friend, Meck Groot, who now works for the UUA New England Region:

### "There is much to do. We must go slowly."

I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

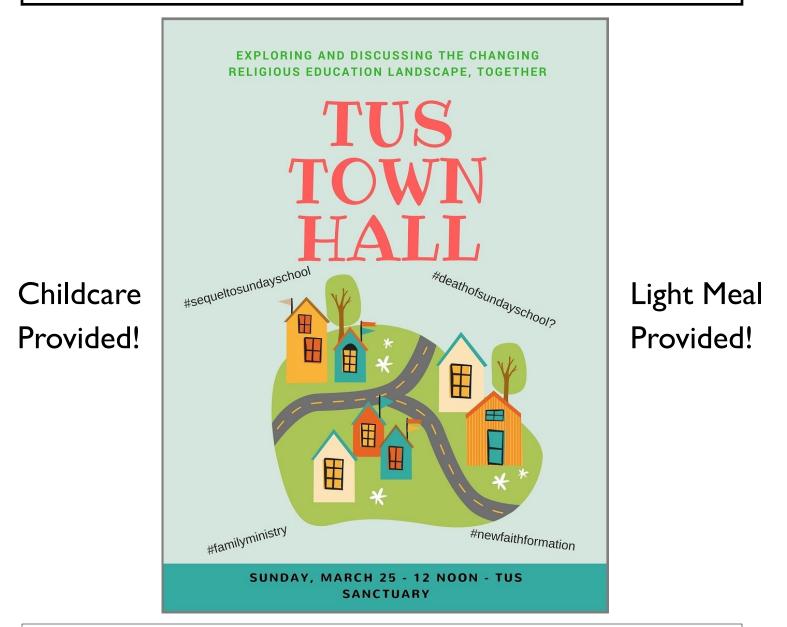
Rev. Karen



#### Announcing the TUS Religious Education Town Hall on Sunday, March 25 - 12 noon

After services, The RE team invites ALL congregants (not just teachers and parents) to meet in the sanctuary for a facilitated dialogue and informative presentation. Our goal is to open up a sorely needed conversation about the changing landscape of Religious Education. We'll discuss some recent trends and have plenty of time for feedback.

The RE Program needs your voices, input, and insight. Please plan on attending!!



"Conversations with Your DRE" - Ongoing Throughout the Remainder of the RE Season

Opportunities for your family to have a meaningful conversation with Jillian, your DRE, are in full swing. Most Sundays after services from 12:15 to 1:30, the DRE office door will be open!! Just email me at <u>tusdrejillian@gmail.com</u> to let me know you want to meet. Alternately, you can respond to a doodle poll with your preferred date by clicking on this link: <u>https://doodle.com/poll/7zz9768t6yafax52</u>

These conversations are meant to keep you abreast of recent trends in the world of UU Religious Education and as way for you to give direct input about what feeds your family's spiritual hunger.



### Stewardship Season

Now 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.



We would like to introduce new members Pat Connelly and Lauren Picciano. Pat was born and raised in Queens NY but has lived in NJ since 1990 when he went to graduate school for his doctorate in Psychology at Rutgers University. There, he met Lauren, also a Psychology grad student and lifelong Jersey girl from Lincoln Park NJ (and as such, a big Springsteen fan). They both received their doctorates in clinical psychology from Rutgers, married, have two kids Rosey, 14, and Francesca, 11, two cats, Willow and Winter, and fond memories of late cat Charlie. Both Pat and Lauren come to Unitarian Universalism by way of a Roman Catholic background, with both also embracing Buddhism. Both have found meditation and mindfulness powerful tools for a happier life. Pat is the director of The Haven, a school-based mental health clinic serving the Piscataway school district. Lauren is half time at home and half time in her private practice, in which she specializes in the treatment of trauma, and training for schools and organizations in supporting transgender and gender creative youth and their families. Pat's hobbies are camping and hiking. Lauren plays softball, loves arts and crafts and flower arranging, and is a baker with a budding interest in raw food cuisine. They live in Highland Park.





Corned Beef, Cabbage, and Potatoes as well as Vegetarian and kid friendly options Bring a covered dish or dessert to share!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
4/1 Two Easter Services

8:45 am in the garden
10:30 multi-gen in the sanctuary

4/8, 4/15 You & TUS Class
4/21 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

UUFaithActionNJ Plenary
4/22 12:15 pm Sexuality Across the Ages Workshop

Dear TUSians:

Stand Up Together, The Power of We Connect, Engage, and Celebrate In the Spirit of La Convivencia

> Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 1:00 – 5:30 PM Princeton University's Carl Fields Center 58 Prospect Ave, Princeton, NJ

Rev. Karen will be attending this conference in Princeton on the intersection betwen social justice and interfaith engagement. It's an afternoon and registration is free, though you do have to register. Can we get a team of folks from TUS to attend together?

http://www.laconvivencia.org/conference.html

\*\*\*If you register, let Rev. Karen know.\*\*\*



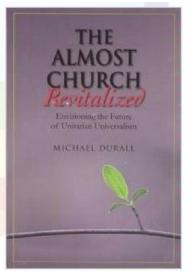
#### Spiritual Nourishment for Leaders

5/20 Annual Meeting

On **March 6,** we will be reading chapter 4, "Creating Committed Members: New Ideas, Lasting Results."

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.



#### UUFaithAction Task Force on Immigration Justice

Interested in finding out more about the issue of Sanctuary or helping area houses of worship that have committed to providing this protection to our immigrant neighbors? On **Sunday, March 18th** following coffee hour, representatives of UU Faith Action (formerly UULMNJ) will be describing their "Sanctuary Challenge" program. All NJ UU's are encouraged to participate. Any TUS member or friend is welcome to attend this short meeting. Please mark your calendars!

For more info call or email Kathy Scarbrough kscarbroontheroad@gmail.com





Aging with Grace March 18 at 12:15pm Room 4 Meeting to discuss future direction of the group for those who have concerns about aging.

#### Announcement of New Policy -- Disruptive Behaviors

Openness to a diversity of individuals is a prime value held by our congregation and expressed in our denomination's purposes and principles. We affirm the belief that our congregation must maintain a secure atmosphere with healthy boundaries where such openness can flourish.

The COM (Committee on Shared Ministries) has drafted and the board approved a policy on Disruptive Behaviors and we want you to know about it. This policy, years in the making, gives us an objective tool when there are concerns about potentially or actually disruptive behaviors.

Policy like this is common in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. You can find this policy on a link in the weekly eblasts throughout the month of March. Or you can get a copy of the policy are available by emailing our Office Administrator at <u>uutus@comcast.net</u>.

Members of the COM will be at coffee hour on **March 11 and March 18** with copies of the policy to answer your questions. If you would like to reach out to COM members directly, please feel free to do so.

Mike Saks <u>msaks30@gmail.com</u> Reg Hackshaw <u>rbh100@earthlink.net</u> Rose Vydelingum <u>rosevydel@gmail.com</u>

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#### Letter from the Reverend

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 I through April 30, with a vote on our annual budget on May 20), I welcome conversations with you about all of this. ~Rev. Karen



# Save the Date! Plenary 2018

The Unitarian Society, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation 176 Tices Ln, East Brunswick, NJ 08816



## April 21st 11am to 4:30pm Tickets and Registration coming soon!

Thank you letter from Debora Powell, for Carolyn Powell's Memorial 2018 Thanks to much ber The help and use of the Becility for my nother Caroly Powell's send-of 6. D can also ray & think you are very weeks To Lave Karen Johnston as a ministry ware downston as a ministry Dear Society Members 1 The Dalar

#### Rev. Karen's Chemical Sensitivities. Back, but Irregularly.

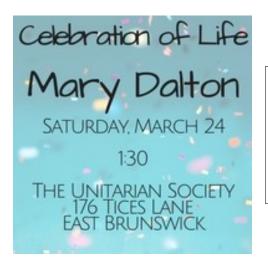
Some of you know that I have some chemical sensitivities – it was brought up when I first came here for candidating week back in May, 2016. For some of you, this may be news. In the scheme of things, they are relatively mild but they do cause some discomfort and require me to adapt (and sometimes, to endure).

For some reason, my chemical sensitivities have been more of a problem this past season, though not consistently. Some days they are really bad. Other days I can forget I have them. I do not know why.

It's not personal. It just may be the detergent on your clothing or product in your hair that irritates my system. Some odors don't bother me and others are a sure thing to set off a reaction (like lavender, which so many people love). Right now, it's about a 75% chance that I can't attend a meeting in the newly renovated library until the new carpet has done more "off-gassing." I wish it were different.

It's an annoyance for me and for other people – talk to my younger daughter about what an inconvenience it has been to her! For that, I apologize in advance and say thank you for the graces you have already extended to me.

~ Rev. Karen



One of our beloved members, Mary Dalton, died last November. Her celebration of life service is scheduled for **March 24 at 1:30** here at TUS. Her obituary was recently posted. If you are interested, you can find it here: <u>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/Mary-Dalton-obituary?</u> <u>pid=188240587</u>

#### Thank Yous From Past Recipients of Our Cash-In-Baskets Efforts

Thank you for partnering with us to help survivors of domestic violence move beyond abuse. Through your generosity in 2017, we were able to provide 9,000 nights of refuge to women and children in our shelter, counsel 4,800 individuals in crisis through our 24-hour hotline, and secure 800 legal protections for survivors and their children.

-WomenAware, 1/12/18

Thank you for your generous gift in response to the recent hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, that hit the Southeastern US and the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. -UUA's Disaster Relief Fund, 1/23/18



#### **TREASURER'S TIDBITS**



**Bob Munson** 

You May Have Wondered: What is a voucher? When you buy something for the church - food or decorations for an event for example - you are reimbursed by filling out a voucher. These are forms on green paper found in the office. Fill in your name, the total amount, and a description, along with your receipts. The expense is charged against one of our budget lines (you can ask for help in picking). We use vouchers for all of our expenses – utility bills, janitor service, membership events, etc.

#### 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!

PATH

#### Cash In Basket for March

March 11 & 18 - The Children's Aid Society https://www.childrensaidnyc.org

March 25 - Southern Poverty Law Center http://splcenter.org





#### **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.



#### 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) 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!

Sundays

You & TUS: A Workshop

MEMBERSHIP

TO

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

### TUS Office Hours for 2018 are:

Monday—Friday, 10am-4:30pm

## **TUS Happenings**



#### **Buddhist Meditation Group**

On **Sunday, March 11, and April 1**, 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!

Any questions? Contact Jackie at Jacalyn21@aol.com



Art Exploration Group Meets Wednesdays at 7pm in classroom 8 March 7th, 21 and 28th weather permitting

#### 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, March II** Bagels & Coffee at 8:30 AM Discussion Starts at 9:00AM - Ends at 10:00AM Questions: Contact Doug at: dougliebau@gmail.org

#### Souper Sunday

Join us for our next Souper Sunday on March 11! We raised \$97 in February!



Note: April will be our last soup fundraiser for the season.

There will be vegetarian, vegan, and non-vegetarian soups are on the menu. This is a fundraiser to help support the good works of this society. 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

The Shakespeare Reading Group will meet **Tuesdays, March 13 & 27 at 7:30 PM** at The Unitarian Society. We will be reading "Romeo and Juliet". Please bring a copy of the play. Contact Harriet Lindblom (732-846-3395 or Dhlindblom@aol.com) for more info or if attending for the first time. ALL ARE WELCOME!



<u>Women's Group</u> Meeting Thursday 3/15 at 1pm \*note date change. Contact Joyce Browning for more info.

## **TUS CALENDAR**



For The Fridge





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March II 9 6 SPRING AHEAD		<b>2</b>		1	2	3 3:30 pm Chasing Coral Movie
4 10:30 a.m. Canvass Breakfast 3:30 pm Death Cafe	5 7:30 pm Philomusica	6	7 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab 7:30 pm Sunday Service Commitee	8 4:30 pm Elijah's Promise	9	10 James Hackshaw Memorial
8:30 am Socrates Cafe 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:00 pm Souper Sunday 12:15 pm RE Com; Buddhist Meditation Group	7:30 pm Philomusica	13 7:00 pm UMS Board 7:30 pm Shakespeare Reading Group	14	15 I:00 pm Women's Group	16 I 1:00 am Braving the Wilderness	17
18 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:00pm Sanctuary UUFaithActionNJ 12:15pm Aging with Grace	19	20 7:30 pm TUS Board Meeting	21 7:00 pm Art Experience Lab Newsletter Due	22	23	1:30pm Mary Dalton Celebration of Life
25 10:30 am Sunday Service 12:00 pm TUS Town Hall	26 7:30 pm Philomusica	27 7:30 pm Shakespeare Reading Group 7:00 pm Racial Justice Team	28 7pm Art Experience Lab 7:00 pm Committee On Ministries			

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### Welcome All Into Our House

**NEWSLETTER FACTS:** The deadline for the April 2018 newsletter is **Wednesday, March 21st.** 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 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEKLY: The list is now sent on Friday. Please send suggested events or meetings to sj.uueastbrunswick@gmail.com no later than Wednesday evening.

#### THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY

President Vice President Treasurer **Secretary** Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Youth Representative Montessori School Board Chair Marty Mussman

Linda Jay Kathy Scarbrough **Bob Munson Barbara Kubey Clif Ashcraft Doug Liebau Rich Phelan Eldridge Dunn** Vacant

#### TUS STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

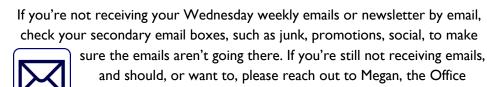
Rev. Karen G. Johnston, Minister-revkarentus@gmail.com

Megan Britton, Office Administrator—uutus@comcast.net

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

Nick Place, Music Coordinator— NickPlaceTUS@gmail.com

Susanne Biancamano, UMS Director—sbiancamano@comcast.net



Administrator, at uutus@comcast.net to add you to the email list.

#### UNITARIAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD

Marty Mussman, Chair Paula Lieb, Vice Chair Joyce Browning **Eileen Chant** Kathy Huston **Rose Vydelingum** Joy Ward Himanshu Pandit

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 For emergencies, call or text.