

# Minister's Musings - January 2020

Reverend Karen G. Johnston

## Three Plus One in the New Year: Looking Forward, Looking Good

There is so much to choose to do with your precious time. Here is an invitation to some upcoming activities that will enrich your spirit and connect you with others at TUS, with your deeper purpose, and with Unitarian Universalism, our principles and values. Three of these activities are in the next month or so and take place at TUS. The fourth one is part of our wider faith movement: General Assembly in June.

For the second year running, we are holding MLK@TUS, inviting the congregation and the wider community to honor Dr. King's legacy and to live more deeply into it. It'll be Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Organized by a group of congregants, led this year by Marlene Mulroney, we welcome back Meta Theatre Company, a powerful, engaging, & interactive way to learn about systemic racism. Plus, this year, there will be a service component. Keep your eyes out for more information in the coming weeks. Please invite friends and neighbors to attend.

On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a workshop for congregational leaders, current or future, to continue the work to review and renew our mission. That will take place from 9:30 -2:30 and requires RSVP so that we know how much lunch to order. Please let me know by January 26 if you can attend ([revkarentus@gmail.com](mailto:revkarentus@gmail.com)).

The following day, just after the Sunday service, Jess Bors, our Acting Director of Religious Education, and I will be co-leading an hour-long conversation about the congregation's Vision for RE. All RE families are strongly encouraged to attend, as we will be talking about what the coming months and following year look like.

Finally, **General Assembly**, our annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, is taking place on the East Coast this year, not all that far from us. It will be in Providence, Rhode Island June 24-28<sup>th</sup>. Attending General Assembly for the first, for many people, is mind-blowing and one of the most powerful experiences they have had as Unitarian Universalists. For those who return, it can be a deepening experience,

connecting you with a strong spiritual and religious identity, meeting new people, expanding your vision of what it means to be UU, and inspiring ideas for you, your family, and our congregation. If you are interested, check out information about GA here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

If you already know that you plan to go, be sure to register by March 15, as the rates go up after that. Also, save March 2 at 9am because at that time everyone, all at once, tries to get hotel reservations. For more information about that, check out this link:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/travel/general-assembly-hotels>. Sometimes, it's worth checking out the AirBnB options - they tend to be cheaper and there's not quite a feeding frenzy. Also, if are a Member of the congregation, you can put yourself forward as a potential voting delegate, representing the congregation in our faith-wide democratic activities. The Board is crafting a fair way to assign delegate status, if there is more interest than there are delegation designations.

It is possible to "attend" GA remotely - using the tools of technology. While I plan to attend this GA in person, I encourage those of you interested in attending virtually to do so, and perhaps do some parts of it together. It really builds connection to the wider faith movement and strengthens our community here in Central Jersey.

So much going on! I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

Rev. Karen