



The Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, New Jersey

Summer 2017

Sunday Services — 10:30am

July 2: ***The United States Was Never A Christian Nation....But What If It Were?*** ~ Rev. Tony Johnson
The United States was founded as a secular nation by a group of men who mostly identified as Christians, but included Trinitarians, Unitarians, Deists, and Universalists. The idea that the nation was inherently and indelibly Christian was promoted by conservative clergy and businessmen during the 20th century. The diversity of beliefs in the early republic was greater than that among the founders. It is even more so in the 21st century. But say this were a Christian nation, what would that mean? *Music by Helen Kho.*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. (Tony) Johnson is a minister who preaches the Gospel of Solidarity and works with congregations, nonprofits, and individuals. Ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1977, he most recently served as an Accredited Interim Minister at Ridgewood, NJ. Much of his ministry has been at the intersection of race and class and where people of diverse faiths meet. He is also a teacher, essayist, and poet.

July 9: ***Protest and Peace*** ~ Core of Fire Interfaith Dance Ministry

This service offers the opportunity to experience the power of dance as activism and statement of protest as well as movement as a pathway to peace. We hope that as one departs from this service, you take with you what you need whether that be a call to action or something to soothe the soul. For what does your heart hunger; for what does your soul yearn: protest or peace? *Music by Core of Fire and Helen Kho.*

July 16: ***Amplify Their Voices*** ~ Racial Justice Task Force

One of the things we white people can do to promote Racial Justice is to amplify the voices of People of Color (POC). They are the leaders we need to follow; theirs are the words we need to hear. Join us as the Racial Justice Task Force shares some great wisdom from both past and present. *Music by Dave Williamson.*

July 23: ***Our Changing Climate: Not "Just" an Environmental Issue***

UUCMC's Climate Change Action Team and friends

This service is in honor of the interdependent web of all existence and the shredding of the web caused by the changing climate. *Music by Jan Dash, piano and clarinet.*

"We tend to think of ourselves as independent beings, self-sufficient and self-reliant. In fact, the opposite is true. As humans, we are utterly dependent upon the people and world around us." ~ Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich

July 30: ***A Morning of Music and Poetry*** ~ The Earth Ensemble

Jan Dash, clarinet; Joel DeWitt, violin; Elaine Held, piano and shakuhachi flute; Kirsten Norberg, soprano.

August 6: ***Capable of Love*** ~ Rev. Tracy Sprowls

With the violence and suffering in the world, it is easy to succumb to despair. *Music by Elaine Held.*

August 13: ***Letting Go of the Hyphen*** ~ Rev. Tracy Sprowls

Why can't we just be Unitarian Universalists rather than all of these hyphens?? *Music by Louise Chernosky, piano; Steve Cook, guitar.*

August 20: **A Total Eclipse of the Sun** ~ Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst

On August 21, we will experience a total eclipse. What does it mean? Are you ready? Today in the service, we will be dedicating children who missed this opportunity as infants. Please email Rev. Virginia to participate. *Music by Louise Chernosky.*

August 27: **A Mutual Admiration Society** ~ Rev. Julie Newhall

Are we living in a mutual admiration society? Have you ever experienced one? Who do you admire? *Music by Jan Dash.*

September 3: **The Dignity of our Labors** ~ Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst

Music by Helen Benham.

STEAMY Summer ~ Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, Youth Fun!

Each Sunday, children begin in the Earth Room, then ages 5+ proceed to the Community Room for multi-age STEAMY fun! (The Nursery is open for our youngest children.)

7/2 - **NO RE program.** Happy almost 4th of July!

7/9 - Chris Jarocha-Ernst & Liz Tortorella will lead a cool STEAM activity!

7/16 - **Water Experiments!** Led by Heidi Bruhin. **Fireworks in a Jar:** Play with food coloring, oil and water. Learn about density and what dissolve means. **Water Harmonica:** Make your own musical instrument with water and glasses. Take home the glass that you decorated yourself with pens.



7/23 - **A Parachute for Jack** - Led by Sari & Luke Alburtus. Oh no! Jack has done it again! He can't resist magic beans, and he is once again being pursued by the giant. The giant, having learned from past mistakes, has poured slippery goose fat down the beanstalk and Jack needs another plan of escape. That's where YOU come in: build a parachute to help Jack escape the giant!

7/30 - Check the Eblast for what STEAMY Program Deja Covington and Liz deBeer have in store.

8/6 - **STEAMY Fun!** Amy Goldsmith needs help with this TBD program.



8/13 - **Engineering Fun!** Led by Michelle & April McKenzie-Creech. Let's put our engineering skills to the test! Our Director of RE loves bridges. Let's learn about the structure of bridges and how they are used as a metaphor. Then we will build our own.

8/20 - **Bubblemania!** Led by Betsy Sunada & Jyoti Argawal. Come make bubble wands of all shapes and sizes. We will also learn how to make bubble print art.

8/27 - **Pendulum fun!** Led by Jennifer & Ted Hagon-LaFountain. Learn about the forces of motion and gravity with a new painting technique by exchanging the paintbrush for a pendulum! Then combining science, art and kinetic fun, we will create a great masterpiece using salt.

9/3 - **Music and more!** Led by Louise Chernosky with Gail Spencer and Bonnie Glaab.

Religious Exploration Ministry

Building Bridges

Michelle McKenzie-Creech, Credentialed Director of RE

Happy summer, friends! In July and August, I will be taking some vacation time, to relax and rejuvenate before our big start up in the fall. I will have sporadic office hours, so feel free to reach out. I will get back to you when I am in. We have a great program planned for the kids this summer. Come on out on Sundays and check it out before you head to the beach. We still need a few volunteers for our summer program; it's really fun and a great way to get to know our UUCMC kids better.

We have big plans for the fall and we will need everyone's support, because as you know, it takes a village. Check out our Religious Education Chair, Aimee VanDuyne's column for more information, and watch your inbox and mailbox. Yes, we are even going to send you snail mail! Enjoy the sunshine, and I will see you soon.



In community,
Michelle

Religious Education News

Thank you. As we wrap up another wonderful year of RE, we want to take this moment to thank all of our teachers and advisors. You do so much, for so many, and you really do make a difference. As a thank you this year, money has been donated in your name to the 'Mama's Bail Out Fund'. This is a fund that bails mothers out of jail. These women have been arrested for minor crimes and cannot post bail. This is a cause that is very dear to our heart; we want mamas to be home with their children where they belong.

Thank you from the RE Committee

New for next year:

We are going to be changing the structure of our teaching teams and volunteer recruiting and commitment in the fall. We will be recruiting 3 lead teachers for each teaching team. Lead teachers stay with the class and curriculum for the full RE program year, Sept.-May, similar to this year. However, we will be asking for a commitment of 8-10 Sundays during that time rather than 16-20. Lead teachers teach once per month, on occasion someone may have to take two Sunday's in a month, but it should all even out in the end. Instead of support teachers, we will be asking families to be the in-class support, 4-6 times a year when they register for RE (lead teachers are exempt from that request if an RE family). We will do some training and tips with the family supports, so they can be effective in helping the lead teacher. We will do all the scheduling of support teachers on our end and ask leads to sign up for dates like this year.

Our hope is that this new system will help with volunteer burn out and consistency in the classroom. It is also our hope that this will help more **families get involved in RE** and move us toward a holistic family ministry model. It will build relationships among adults, too!

Look for your registration form coming later this summer. It will have more information and a place for you to choose which class you would like to volunteer in.

Have a wonderful summer. We hope to see you enjoying the STEAMY program! (see p.2)

Board News

Board of Governance 2017-2018

Interim President	Joan Farkas	Treasurer	Ted Wardell	VP at Large	Stacey Abate
Senior VP	Alicia Malave-Diaz	VP Staff Resources	Janet Freed	VP at Large	Stephen Alburtus
Secretary	Jan Boyarin	VP at Large	Rick Goldberg	Council Moderator	Judy Stevens

Soul Matters ~ Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

Thanks to the hard work of the Program Committee, we have some great summer services lined up! I hope to see you all here for them. Except when I am travelling, I love to attend services and just see our congregation in action from a different angle. I know there are important issues to explore and voices to be heard, and I am ready to listen.



I hope you also get to see life from a different perspective in these summer months. Maybe it is time for you to slow down, or play a little more than work. Definitely, it is time to get outside and touch water, sun or moonlight, and to watch things grow.

I will be on vacation from July 2 – 29th. Rev. Rosemarie Newberry will be covering pastoral care for that time. (rnewberry0320@comcast.net or 732-331-9463) July 30 – August 19, I will be preparing for the year ahead and will be available for pastoral care.

Thank you so much UUCMC for the time to recharge and for all the beauty you add to my life!

Rev. Virginia

Dollar\$ and \$en\$e

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Total Budget \$477,600)

TARGET	PLEDGED	PLEDGE GAP	PLEDGES PAID
\$342,000	\$333,854	\$8,146	\$279,404

YTD INCOME	YTD EXPENSES	NET INCOME
\$416,691	\$421,391	-\$4,700

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (Total Budget \$474,718)

PLEDGE TARGET	PLEDGED	PLEDGE GAP	PLEDGES PAID
\$345,000	\$301,067	\$43,933	\$36,590

Writing with about a week left in our 2016-17 fiscal year, we are tracking for a modest deficit in our net income for the year. Your pledges, plus good performance by fund-raisers, have helped to fund our many activities throughout the year. The Auction brought in over \$19,000. However, this was less than last year's truly outstanding level. Please complete your pledge payments promptly, so we may finish the fiscal year as brightly as possible.

The Board has approved the budget for FY2017-18. To hit our fiscal goals, we need you to submit your pledge information now, if you haven't done so already. As shown in the table, we have a wide **gap of more than \$40,000** between our target for pledge funds in FY 2017-18 and the amount actually pledged so far. 41 people who pledged last year haven't responded yet.

This installment of Dollars and Sense will be my last, as I am handing the treasurer duties over to the capable hands of Ted Wardell. I thank you for the opportunity to assist with UUCMC's accounting. I've learned a lot; met a lot of people; and gained a better understanding of the many wondrous works underway around the meetinghouse.

As ever, thank you for your financial support to UUCMC!

- Tom Smith, Treasurer





UUCMC Solar System's Lifetime Performance (since 9/22/06)
Reading taken 5/31/17

Total: 125,404 pounds of CO₂ pollution avoided
114,005 Kwhrs 193,812 pounds coal consumption avoided produced 342 barrels of oil consumption avoided

Committee News



Committee Chairs

Building	Bob Guenther	Finance & Administration	Tom Harbison	Public Information	Karen Kane
Caring	Paul Newland/Irene Passmore	Grounds	Bonnie Lee Glaab	Religious Education	Aimee VanDuyne
Community Life	Heidi Bruhin	Membership	Betsy Sunada	Social Action	Tony Giordano
Denominational Affairs	Rich Held	Music Program	Liz Tortorella Jane Reskof	Sunday Morning Dialog	Linda Stehlik

SOCIAL ACTION

Share the Plate: New Jersey Clearwater, our Share the Plate recipient for May, received a check for \$662.00. Collaborative Support Programs of NJ, June’s recipient, received \$726.25. (No Share the Plate in July and August.)

At the June Congregational Meeting, the congregation chose recipients for 2017-18: **Planned Parenthood** of Central and Greater Northern NJ, **Casa Freehold**, **Parker Family Health Center**, and, since there was a tie among **Covenant House** Asbury Park, **Family Promise**, and **UU Legislative Ministry of NJ**, all will be recipients. At the June meeting, the SA committee chose 4 more: **Monmouth Center for World Religions & Ethical Thought**, **Black Lives of UU**, **New Labor**, and **Climate Science Defense Fund**, a total of 10 recipients. Thanks for your help in choosing the recipients and for your generosity during the year. This year, \$8309 was donated to worthy non-profit recipients from our offerings.

Bayshore Lunch Program - On Monday, June 12th, 9 UUCMC members served lunch to 55 guests at the Keyport Community Church. The lunch is appreciated by the guests, and we have a lot of fun in the planning, preparing and serving. If you'd like to join us, see Barbara Vallin.

UUCMC helped out with **Family Promise** at Middletown United Methodist Church 6/24-7/1. Can you help with preparing a meal, hosting a meal or overnight host next time? Contact Monica Bottone or Peter Bellincampi.

Corruption of Democracy - The action for this month is writing letters to the media asking that they spend more time on healthcare legislation rather than the sideshow that diverts attention from real issues. The next meetings are 7/22 & 8/12 at 10am in the Community Room. All are welcome to join in for lively discussion and planning for action. For more info, contact Rich Held or Tony Giordano.

We thank Elizabeth Sowell-Zak for her leadership for the past two years and welcome new Social Action Chair Tony Giordano, elected on June 11. Our next Social Action meeting will be Wed., August 2 at 7pm in the East Room.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION TEAM

Join us for our Sunday service on July 23: *Our Changing Climate: Not "Just" an Environmental Issue.*

Increasingly, UU congregations are forming similar teams to focus on climate. They are networking at conferences and via a monthly climate roundtable and emphasizing Climate Justice.

Our CCAT is represented on the **Monmouth Community Climate Coalition**. This group is working on local advocacy for safe, clean and just climate solutions.

www.monmouthclimate.org

Citizens' Climate Education (CCE) has been one of our recipients for Share the Plate. CCE, along with **Citizens' Climate Lobby** (CCL), meets on the second Saturday of the month at UUCMC. However, there will be no meeting at the meetinghouse in July. Instead, there will be a celebration at an evening gathering **July 19** at a member's home. For info, email Lynn climatelynn@gmail.org.

The 8th Annual CCL conference in Washington, DC, was a huge success with over 1300 volunteers, many of them UUs. We agreed that the CCE-CCL method of respectful, appreciative, and prepared approach exemplifies UU values. We were glad to be able to use these in service of our goals to protect the "interdependent web."

www.citizensclimatelobby.org

Questions about any of these groups?
Email Lynn Dash: climatelynn@gmail.com

UUCMC Annual Auction a Big Success Due to the Effort of Many

Members and Friends enjoyed our Annual Action in June. We netted more than \$19,000 for the work of UUCMC. We also had a lot of fun.

It took a lot of people helping to make the evening a success. In addition to all those who donated generously to the auction, and those who bid so enthusiastically, we have listed those who helped make the evening such a success. If we've missed anyone, forgive us.

Lisa Arcoleo	Tara Lieneck
Peter Bellincampi	Elaine Macina
Monica Bottone	Leila Merhi
Tessa Cannizzaro	Marinel Mukherjee
Liz deBeer	Charly Nelson
Allison Donahue	Jean Nelson
Joe Donahue	Eliana Richman
Victor Franco	Nathaniel Richman
Irene Gibson	Maggi Riordan
Rick Goldberg	Barbara Daly-Schpok
Florrie Hill	Anne Shramko
Cori Hoffman	Sam Shramko
John Hoffman	Linda Stehlik
Aisling Jones-Wollerton	Molly Walker
Edna Larsen	Ted Wardell
Steve Laudano	Carolyn Weaver
Laura Lieneck	

Thanks, and see you next year!

Do You Have Questions?

...about Unitarian Universalism?
...about this wonderful community?
...about membership?

Join Rev. Virginia, Lisa (Membership Coordinator), and Michelle (DRE) for a Question & Answer session after service at 11:45am, **August 20th** in Room 4/5.

Covenant Circles

Thanks to everyone who facilitated and/or participated. Please fill out our survey to help us improve your experience. Covenant Circles will be formed anew in September. **Stay tuned for sign-up** info later in the summer.



Kids' Auditions for Amahl in

"Amahl and The Night Visitors" by Menotti

Calling girls and boys aged 8-12 to audition for the role of Amahl in shows December 9 & 10. Two children will be chosen (to avoid illness issues in December!). I will help them understand the role and sing something. It's a fun part with costumes and cool set, but it will take some summer and fall rehearsals to learn all the music. Go to YouTube to see many productions of "Amahl and the Night Visitors". Other children can be in the chorus of townspeople. Also lots of fun!

Auditions can be any Sunday. Email Elaine Held (evdplate@gmail.com) to set up an audition.

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

The UU Singers break for the summer, and I'm on vacation in July, but our UU musicians have an exciting summer of music planned. See pp 1 & 2 for details.

Louise Chernosky, Music Director music@uucmc.org

Earth Room Concerts

Shawna Caspi
Opener: Efrat Shapira
Saturday, Sept. 16 - 7:30pm



Toronto-based singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist **Shawna Caspi** is a mighty singer, a story sculptor, and a truth teller. She believes in poetry and the power of one person and one instrument. Her third album is a collection showcasing her warm vocals, classically-trained fingerstyle guitar playing, and intimate songwriting in a genuine, powerful way. Her songs are snapshots – moments that may appear small, but which subtly carry weight and offer greater depth thanks to her well-crafted lyrics.

Efrat Shapira is a classically-trained violinist, violist, singer, arranger and composer. Efrat has a new CD, *The Silver Lining*. She's also working on projects with the Jade Quartet and starting a Klezmer duo with her father, accordionist Dan Shapira.

Tickets are available at earthroomconcerts.org and after services starting in August.

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Unless otherwise noted, phone numbers in this newsletter have area code 732.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of each month at 12n. Please submit articles to uucmc@uucmc.org.

This newsletter is for news and articles about the activities of the congregation. All submissions should be <150 words.

The newsletter can be accessed via our website at www.uucmc.org. Click on News and then Newsletter. Copies are available without charge in the foyer.

Tai Chi for Beginners
 Mondays, 6: 30 pm, Community Room

Recognize the "qi" in your body. Learn the practice called "nanlaoshu" or "the art of how to grow old." It enables us to strengthen and straighten our bodies, increase flexibility and improve our general health and well-being. No sign-up necessary. Open to all. \$5 donation. Email Dan Ciaglia: danciaglia@gmail.com.



UU Buddhist Meditation

EARTH SANGHA

The Earth Sangha meets to sit and walk meditation **Thursday evenings, 5-6:30** and **Friday morning 10:15-12**, in the East Room or Earth Room. Instructions are available.

EDGEWOOD HOUSE MEDITATION

The Monmouth Zen Circle (Edgewood House, **Saturdays 9:45-12**). This is a more demanding schedule than the Earth Sangha: three 30-minute periods of meditation, two 10-minute periods of walking meditation, followed by a Buddhist service of chanting and bowing. Teacher Kotatsu John Bailes joins us the first weekend of the month (*not in July*) for talks and private conversations.

To learn about both sanghas and/or to get our emails, contact Elaine Held evdplate@gmail.com /732-682-1059. **All are welcome!**

Adjunct Group

Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought

MCWRET is proud to be one of the 70 national interfaith partners of the **Know Your Neighbor Summer Campaign (KYN)**, an effort of compassionate resistance against increasing polarization in the country along political, religious, and cultural divisions. Social science research have shown that personal contact with members of groups you are unfamiliar with is the most effective way to dispel prejudice, and the KYN campaign offers tips, tools, and guides to help with that exchange. The unity of our nation is based neither upon our uniformity nor upon our agreement on questions of politics or religion, but rather on our common commitment to the fundamental values of equality, fairness, and respect. We can do better as a nation, and it begins with us! Join the campaign at www.ing.org/kyn and spread the word.

On **July 16**, the NJ Interfaith Coalition is having a gathering and celebration. NJIFC is another organization that works to foster a climate of positive mutual acceptance and appreciation for all, regardless of faith, race or sexual orientation. Visit www.njifc.org for more information.

www.interfaith-mcwret.org

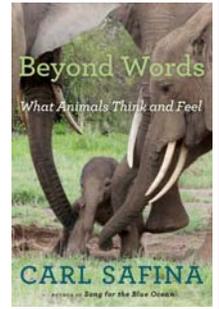
Joe Ritacco (MCWRET) jritacco@comcast.net or
 Kristine Binaco (UUCMC & MCWRET) uubooklover@verizon.net

Get Involved!

Summer Read

Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel by Carl Safina
Discussion: August 19 at 10am in the East Room

From the *New York Times* review: "Dr. Safina [makes] readers feel as strong a connection to these animals as he does. He follows a formula, familiar from nature documentaries: Draw close to the animals, explain their habits and family structures and personalities until we perceive them as individual characters, then detail the ways human culture is destroying their way of life.



Be prepared for Water Communion!

At our Ingathering Services on September 10, we will gather in the waters of the earth from all the places we have been touched by its blessing. It could be from your kitchen tap, a favorite stream or swimming pool or any place that has significance for you. As you make your way this summer look for your own 'holy' water, collect a little to share with your friends at UUCMC, and bring it with you on September 10.

From the Racial Justice Task Force:

The **Sanctuary Working Group** is hoping to obtain Accompaniment Training in the near future. Accompaniment Training is necessary in order to most effectively help people in our community who have to report to ICE. We will notify you of the dates once we have them. We will also be working with Casa Freehold to help them in any way they need. If you are interested in working with us and want to be on the email list, please email Rich Held.



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Address Correction Requested