

The Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, New Jersey

June 2016

June's Theme: *FAITH*

Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

To have faith requires courage, the ability to take a risk, the readiness even to accept pain and disappointment. Whoever insists on safety and security as primary conditions of life cannot have faith.

~ Eric Fromm

True faith can only grow and mature if it includes the elements of paradox and creative doubt. Such doubt is not the enemy of faith but an essential element in it. [True and life-giving] faith does not bring the false peace of answered questions and resolved paradoxes.

~ Kenneth Leech

Faith – one's sense of the ultimate character of existence – not only centers the mind and provides a resting place for the heart. It is also the orienting guide of the hand. Faith determines action. Faith is manifest in act. Faith is intimately related to doing.... Our faith is revealed in our behavior.

~ Sharon Daloz Parks

Thinking of You U ~ Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

Faith: 1. confidence or trust in a person or thing. 2. belief that is not based on proof.

What are acts of faith in a UU congregation? The first one that comes to mind is our Annual Giving Campaign. It takes a lot of faith in your fellow congregants to build a budget on money we hope will materialize based on promises and past patterns of giving. Every year, it is a balancing act between those who worry and those who don't. But every year (so far) things do work out. I have come to have faith in the generosity of our members and in the best judgement of our leaders. They carry the burden of responsibility along with the authority to make financial decisions on the congregation's behalf. This is not an easy gig! Big thanks to them and to all who give to make UUCMC possible!



And, there is faith in the room when we recruit teachers to guide our young people. The RE Committee sweats every spot that needs filling. Not just to put an adult in the room, but to put the right adult in the room. Ones who can share wisdom and knowledge, and respect the beauty and wonder that is every child and youth in our care. It is an act of faith to create learning spaces, to be ready, never sure who will show up on any given day.

These are not the only spaces for faith to develop in our congregation. Any time the Nominating Committee weighs who the best person for a particular position might be, there is faith urging us on. With the congregation's approval, we have to have faith that our chosen leaders will bring their best selves to the tasks at hand and will be willing to serve a larger vision for our diverse and growing congregation.

Sometimes, I just have to step back and take it all in. It is a wonder to me that human community can be created and sustained, again and again. Why doesn't it all just fall apart? Faith is the answer - confidence, trust, with no proof but lived experience. What a true wonder it really is!

With faith,

Rev. Virginia

Sunday Services

One service at 10:30am

June 5

Music Sunday: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Musicians of the Congregation

This Sunday, we will hear music written by women and music honoring women. The UU Singers and Cynthia Balme will perform Mozart's Regina Coeli kv. 108 with orchestra; Joel DeWitt will play Grażyna Bacewicz's "Stained Glass Window," and Just Folk will bring us a Stephen Foster parlor song. *Music by the UU Singers, Cindy Balme, Chamber Orchestra, Just Folk, Elaine Held, Joel DeWitt, and Louise Chernosky.*

June 12

Faith in One Another: Flower Communion Sunday for All

Rev. Virginia and Michelle McKenzie-Creech

Flower Communion is a UU celebration of community. Each person brings a flower to share and takes a different one home with them. Each flower, like each person, is a unique gift among us. Whether you are young and in bud, or old and gone to seed, you have a place in this lovely bunch of blooms. Come and witness this amazing blend, many generations strong! Today, we will recognize all of our new members since September 2015. Come and meet them! *Music by Joel DeWitt and Louise Chernosky.*



June 19

The Sky is Falling

Rev. Virginia

Remember Chicken Little running around raising the alarm? She had faith in the worst possible outcome. Panic and imminent disaster are compelling. But is there an alternative? What about faith or trust in something more sustaining? The answer sounds almost Universalist to me! *Music by Helen Kho.*

June 26

What's in a Name?: Trading "I" for "We"

Rev. Megan Kelly

Life and love call us out of isolation. Who are we really unto ourselves? Are we not defined by our relationships with others? What if there was no "I," only "We?" What would it mean to leave "I" behind? Who is your "we"? How would you live your life differently knowing your decisions always impact more than your "self?" *Music by Evan Schwartzman, piano, and Joel DeWitt, violin.*

Religious Exploration Ministry

Building Bridges

Michelle McKenzie-Creech,
Credentialed Director of RE



I had a great sabbatical and am so grateful to have had the opportunity. I am so happy to be back with you, full of energy and ideas. In May, the Religious Education Committee had our annual retreat; we spent all day together planning for the coming year's program and goals. Here are a few takeaways you should know:

- Our Religious Education program will be infusing the monthly worship themes throughout the RE program. Bringing monthly themes into RE will help to create a shared experience bridging families, teachers and kids with what's happening in Covenant Circles and worship.
- Families will have access to online information that is specific to the congregation's monthly theme and receive tools to enable family discussion and interaction. Our theme tools will allow families to go deeper on the subject and support our goals of living our principles Sunday and every day.
- We are developing new ways to better support our volunteer teachers and advisors.

We are looking forward to sharing more with you about our plans in the coming months. Our top priority right now is recruiting teachers for the fall. If you would like to teach, you can sign up on the RE Office door or just let me know. I am always happy to answer questions about what's involved. The most important thing to know is that you don't have to have experience teaching, just a willingness to learn alongside our children and youth.

“Teaching RE is one of those things that seems daunting going in, but delivers so many good feelings that, at the end, you realize you got more out of it than you put in.”

~ Sari Albutus

I look forward to reconnecting with all of you and sharing more about our exciting plans for the future.

In community,

Michelle



Religious Education News

RE REjoices:

Our youth have passed many milestones this month. Our 2nd and 3rd graders had their Stepping Stones ceremony. We are so proud of these youth who are developing into wonderful UU's.

We also celebrated our High School Seniors with a bridging ceremony. We are sending these youth out into the world with the UU principles firmly in their belief system. Good luck to all of you.

RE REquests:

Our Summer RE Program for children in K-8 is called STEAM: Science Technology Engineering Art and Math. A **STEAMY Summer** means fun with: catapults, levers, worms, rockets, oobleck, straw boats, rainbows and much more! The program starts on Sunday, June 19th. Look for details in the eblasts.

Please support all this fun learning by volunteering to lead one (*just one!*) Sunday session this summer. You will have the support of the RE Committee and the adoration of our UUCMC children.

Are you interested in teaching our wonderful youth next year? Please consider joining our wonderful group of RE volunteers. Sign up sheets are posted on the DRE office door.

RE REminders:

June 5th is the last day of RE. We will be celebrating in the Community room.

The youth groups will be marching in the **Asbury Park Pride** Parade on June 5th.

Parade starts at 12.

Some RE dates to REmember and REcord:

June 4th: Our Annual Auction. Come out for a wonderful evening of dining and shopping.

June 5th: Last day of RE; Pride parade.

June 12th: Flower Communion

June 19th: 1st Summer Program

Board News

Board of Governance 2015-2016

President	Rick Goldberg	Treasurer	Tom Smith	VP at Large	Liz deBeer
Senior VP	Carolyn Weaver	VP Staff Resources	Janet Freed	VP at Large	Stephen Alburtus
Secretary	Jan Boyarin	VP at Large	Steve Vitale	Council Moderator	Susanne Kelly

A message from the President, Rick Goldberg

It's Transition Time.

June is a month full of transitions for UUCMC – it is the time that our program moves into a different format for the summer. It is also the time when we hold our annual Congregational business meeting (June 12) where we sum up the past year, look towards the future, and hold elections to replace the volunteer leaders who have finished their terms in office. Many thanks to the hard work of Nominating Committee to put together the slate of candidates.

I am one of those who will be leaving office after two years as your President. In these two years, I have discovered again the truth that volunteerism is not just a sign of commitment, it actually leads to deeper commitment as well. I believe very strongly in the value of UUCMC as an institution that serves the needs of its members and has an important role to play in the community. I am extremely grateful to the dozens of volunteer leaders who keep UUCMC running, as well as to our wonderful staff for everything they do. And I thank all the members and friends who have helped me with advice and words of encouragement the past two years.

I look forward to a summer of relaxation and renewal, and I wish the same for you.

Reminder to **Finish Strong**:

Make a pledge for next fiscal year
TODAY if you did not already
Support the Auction **June 4**
Make sure your pledge for the current
fiscal year is fulfilled **before the**
end of June.

As always, I'd welcome hearing from you

Rick Goldberg ~ rick2358@gmail.com

Dollar\$ and Sen\$e

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Total Budget \$473,796)

PLEDGE TARGET	PLEDGED	PLEDGE GAP	PLEDGES PAID
\$332,000	\$325,960	\$6,040	\$253,016

YTD INCOME	YTD EXPENSES	NET INCOME
\$396,037	\$386,218	\$9,819

We are now wrapping up planning for the 2016-17 year. If you haven't pledged yet, please help us get to the budget number anticipated by the Board by letting us know what we can expect from you. Thank you for keeping current with your pledges and payments!

- Tom Smith, Treasurer

From the Racial Justice Task Force:

The Roberts Court and Voting Rights (excerpted from *The Fight to Vote* by Michael Waldman)
Justice Louis D. Brandeis believed "We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

Previous to 1963, states could create districts at will. In 1964, the Supreme Court completed a redistricting revolution. They found that districts should be governed by 'one person, one vote.'

Chief Justice Earl Warren in *Reynolds v. Sims*:
"Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests. The right to vote freely for the candidate of one's choice is of the essence of a democratic society, and any restrictions on that right strike at the heart of representative government."

Swiftly following the weakening of major provisions of the Voting Rights law recently by the Roberts' court, legislators in 41 states introduced 180 bills of various kinds to impede voting.

Committee News

Committee Chairs

Building	Sebastian Randel	Finance & Administration	Ted Wardell	Program	Jane Reskof
Caring	Donald Chong/Paul Newland	Grounds	Bonnie Lee Glaab	Public Information	Gil Hutchinson
Community Life	Audrey Brainard/Heidi Bruhin	Membership	Betsy Sunada	Religious Education	Aimee VanDuynne
Denominational Affairs	Sarah Fischell	Music	Liz Tortorella	Social Action	Elizabeth Sowell-Zak
				Sunday Morning Dialog	Linda Stehlik

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee meets in the East Room the **first Wednesday of each month** at 7pm. *Be the change!*

Share the Plate - Our recipient for April was **Clean Water Action** and received a check for \$746.15, half the monies collected in our Sunday offerings for that month. **Lunch Break** in Red Bank will our recipient for June. They provide hot meals, clothing and other support for those in need.

You will be receiving the **Share the Plate ballot** soon, with organizations suggested by all of you. At the Annual meeting on June 12, you will be asked to vote for five of these to add to the five Social Action has already chosen as next year's Share the Plate recipients. Many are organizations you may not have heard of, so please take some time to go to the websites provided to learn more about the ones you are not familiar with. Thank you!

Family Promise - A big Thank You to the Covenant Circle who helped out in May when the Middletown United Methodist Church hosted Family Promise guests. The word is that everything went very well. Our next chance to help will be the week of **July 10**. Please sign up on Volunteer Spots or contact Anne Shramko, 671-9457.

To get involved, contact Social Action Chair Elizabeth Sowell-Zak: new email address: socialactionuucmc@gmail.com

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION TEAM

Thanks to Steve Knowlton and Sarah Fischell who compiled and presented information on our meetinghouse's energy use. We will continue to make this information available and thank everyone who is making efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

We are represented on the new Monmouth Community Climate Coalition (MCCC), a group of civic, environmental, and multi-faith organizations with the goal to recognize the climate crisis and solutions: education, inspiration, and advocacy. MCWRET is also represented.

The next MCCC event is a talk by Rev. Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God for Evolution*. (He has spoken at UUCMC in previous years.) How can we stay inspired in the face of changing climate and disruption to the life systems that sustain us? **Monday, June 6, at 7 pm** (refreshments at 6:30) Rumson Presbyterian Church, 4 E. River Rd. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Interested in being part of a movement to address climate risks and challenges? Within our walls (CCAT) and outside our walls (MCCC)? Email Lynn Dash: climatelynn@gmail.com

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)

CCL, a grassroots, volunteer, non-partisan nationwide/international organization (www.citizensclimatelobby.org), resonates with many UU values, including respect for the inherent worth and dignity of each person, and of course the interdependent web of which we are all a part.

The local CCL group is hosted at UUCMC on the second Saturday of each month—next meeting is Saturday, June 11 at 11:30 am. Questions? climatelynn@gmail.com



UUCMC Solar System's Lifetime Performance (since 9/22/06)

Reading taken 4/30/16

Total: 112,353 pounds of CO₂ pollution avoided
 102,140 173,642 pounds coal consumption avoided
Kwhrs produced 306 barrels of oil consumption avoided

DINNER AND AUCTION

Saturday, June 4th

Silent Auction - 5pm-6:30pm

Dinner - 6pm;

Voice Auction - 7pm

\$10 Adult, \$25 Family (Childcare available)

See John Hoffman for tickets at Coffee Hour or Maggi in the Office

This is a time to spend among your friends at the congregation. We eat; we drink; we bid on some fabulous prizes, all for the low price of \$10! You don't want to miss this incredible evening!

SOME OFFERINGS:



SERVICES

Theme dinners at homes or UUCMC
 Lessons in an area of interest
 Vacation Home Getaways
 Southern Cooking Dinner
 Kindergarten Party
 Music Party
 Noodle Dinner
 Super Bowl Party
 Homemade gourmet foods

GOODS

Tickets for cultural events
 Tickets for sports events
 Antique items
 Gift Baskets
 Jewelry
 Artwork
 Sculpture
 Collectibles

No further donations accepted.

Now you get to bid on them and win fun goods and services!

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

The UU Singers' season will culminate in a performance of Mozart's Regina Coeli KV. 108 with chamber orchestra on June 5th. We are delighted that Cindy Balme will join us as soprano soloist. We will also hear music from Just Folk, a violin solo by Joel DeWitt, and a piano duet from Elaine Held and Louise.

I am so very grateful to all of our congregational musicians who have offered their talents to enrich Sunday services! To our excellent soloists, ensemble singers, drummers, and those of you who played instruments and sang in our ad hoc groups throughout the year: your contributions help UUCMC reverberate with joyful song! Thank you for making music at UUCMC fun and meaningful. I look forward to the summer vacation as a time to recharge. UUCMC's music continues through the summer under the guidance of the Music Committee. Please contact Liz Tortorella, Chair, if you'd like to be involved. I wish you all a lovely summer!

Louise Chernosky, Music Director
 music@uucmc.org

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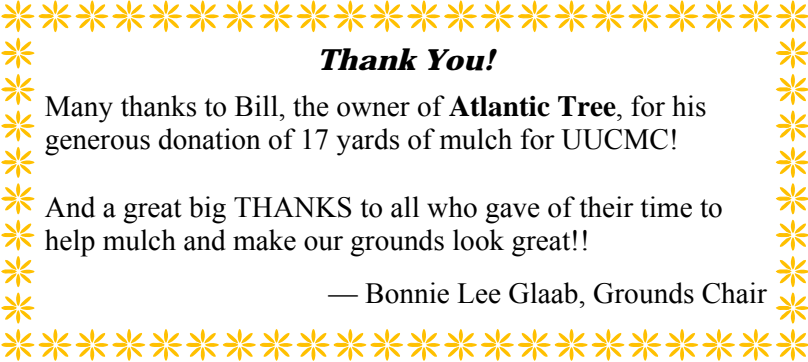
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Unless otherwise noted, phone numbers in this newsletter have area code 732.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of each month at 11am. Please submit articles to uucmc@uucmc.org.

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

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


Thank You!
 Many thanks to Bill, the owner of **Atlantic Tree**, for his generous donation of 17 yards of mulch for UUCMC!
 And a great big THANKS to all who gave of their time to help mulch and make our grounds look great!!
 — Bonnie Lee Glaab, Grounds Chair

Tai Chi for Beginners
 Mondays, 6:15 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. Dan Ciaglia: danciaglia@gmail.com.

LINCROFT ZEN SANGHA
 Wednesdays 7-9pm (Beginners' instruction starts at 6:30)
 A brief Zen Buddhist Service is followed by periods of sitting meditation interspersed with walking meditation. Become awake to one's life in the universe.
Info: <http://lincroftzen.org> (See the "First Visit" tab) or info@lincroftzen.org

Adjunct Group

Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought (MCWRET)

The Board of the MCWRET is privileged to be involved in so many meaningful activities and events such as the upcoming program offered by Monmouth Community Climate Coalition talk featuring Rev. Michael Dowd. It will be on Monday, June 6, at the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson. See page 5 or Lynn Dash for more information.

During 2015, the Board agreed to conduct business in one hour and dedicate the other hour of the monthly meeting to interfaith dialogue. We continue offering public programs along with advocacy. Together, this seems to be resulting in deepening relationships and a deepening sense of community. Our most recent dialogue was "What is the nature of 'bliss' for you and what is its role in your religious experience?" Intriguing!

www.interfaith-mcwret.org

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

Upcoming Events!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

UUCMC ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, June 4, 2015

Silent Auction 5:00pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Live Auction 7:00 pm

Tickets \$10, \$25 max/family

Childcare Provided

Gift Cards, Gift Baskets,
Artwork, Parties, Dinners,
Home Baked Bread, Vacation
Homes, Event Tickets, Curiosa
and much, much more.

We have it all.

A good time is guaranteed.

SEE YOU THERE!

Social Action Film Series

Where to Invade Next
Part 2

June 12 at 6pm

(The 1st half will be shown
at 5pm.)

Michael Moore is back with a provocative comedy in which he stops at nothing to make America great. He confronts the most pressing issues facing the nation today and finds solutions in the most unlikely places. It results in something unlike anything he has done before: an eye-opening call to capture the American Dream and restore it in, of all places, America.

Springtime Art

The Earth Room is all decked out for Spring with **oil paintings by Ilene Smith**. She depicts dreamscapes and landscapes, gardens and interiors which draw you in. Hailing from the Pacific NW and California, Ilene now lives in Middletown. More info is in the **Art** folders at the back of the room.

New Member Brunch & Recognition in the Service

Sunday, June 12th, 9am

This year's new members and leadership: please join us at a potluck brunch to celebrate and meet each other. New members will be recognized in the service that morning. Contact Lisa Arcoleo (lisa@uucmc.org) with questions and to RSVP.

Racial Justice Task Force

RJTF will meet **June 4** at 4:30 (just before the Auction, which starts at 5:00). All are welcome.



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Address Correction Requested

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE