

# The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

MARCH 2025  
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## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR MARCH

Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs are online at [meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw](https://meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw) or by phone at 478-308-5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

**Mar 2. Love as an Intention.** We're happy to welcome back Laura Kushner, who will talk about how we can find love for ourselves and those around us in these polarizing times. Our 1st principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, reminds us to apply this mindset for self-healing and tolerance while living in a society in which political and social issues are so extremely different. Led by Laura Kushner.

**Mar 9. Overlooked: Women in History.** Countless contributions to society have been made by women, but historians and scholars have often overlooked them due to gender. We will highlight the accomplishments of five remarkable women and how their contributions changed history. Led by Jeff Wallis and members of the congregation. **(Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on March 8.)**

**Mar 16. Inner Empire.** From ancient history to modern times, not everyone living under an imperial regime has surrendered to its demands. Amid concerns about the current rise of religious and political powers, we turn to sources that remind us of where we can find the strength to stand our ground on behalf of ourselves or others, and when in our lives we've done that. Led by Rev. Mary Tiebout.

**Mar 23. Slavery and Segregation in New Jersey.** Before New Jersey abolished slavery in 1804, thousands of Africans were enslaved here. After abolition, New Jersey served as an important route on the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves flee from Maryland and Delaware to points north. Even after the Civil War ended, African Americans continued to face challenges in New Jersey, including segregation of schools and housing. Led by Jim Kasprzak.

**Mar 30. Gender Diversity.** Margaret Mead's *Coming of Age in Samoa* set off an anthropological search for the diverse possibilities of human response to puberty, the creative ways people sort gendered roles, and the variable ways cultures engage in sexual selection. This presentation provides examples from the Sambia of Papua New Guinea, the Ache of Bolivia, various Two-Spirit folks from some Native Americans, and the Hijras of India. Led by Prof. Anthony Balzano.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

*The Quest* is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, [www.uunewtonnj.org](http://www.uunewtonnj.org). Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



## **The Outrageous Abandonment of Ukraine**

In 1938, Great Britain and France agreed to allow Nazi Germany to invade and take over parts of Czechoslovakia. The Munich Conference agreement was purely intended to appease Hitler.

We all know how that turned out. World War II started one year later, when Hitler invaded Poland. By the war's end, between 50 and 80 million people had been killed.

**Fast forward to February, 2025.** Russia was in its third year of fighting to take over Ukraine, having invaded that nation for no reason beyond the Russian president's desire to enlarge his empire. And it appeared that the United States was ready to try appeasement again.

The US agreed to meet with the Russians to discuss how to end the war. The Ukrainians weren't invited. Our Secretary of Defense declared it is "unrealistic" to think that Ukraine might get back the 20% of its territory Russia had captured. The US also agreed, in advance, that Ukraine would not be permitted to join the NATO military alliance.

Adding extortion to the process, the US held out the possibility of some sort of support for Ukraine if, and only if, they gave us 50% of its mineral assets.

European leaders, aghast at the US retreat, began talking about the formation of a unified European army. The potential for World War III was ramping up fast.

Could it be a coincidence that our administration has also been talking about taking over Canada, Greenland, and the Panama Canal? Might we be seeing Putin's pending success in expansion, with an eye toward copying it?

Politics might not seem like a proper subject for comment by a religious group like ours. But that changes when millions of lives are at stake due to injustice and betrayal. Is it right for religion to turn a blind eye?

The national UU organization is participating in at least one lawsuit against the administration involving migration arrests. I'm hoping our national leaders will also speak out against the very dangerous appeasement of Russia.

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***Mission Statement of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County***

**We seek to nourish the spirit;  
to foster peace, justice, diversity and understanding  
in our community and the world;  
and to cherish and sustain the earth and the web of life.**

# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear families and friends,

March into action! This month, we continue exploring the four elements. We begin with the power of fire to ignite. Next month, we move into the power of water to transform. Fire represents transformation, passion, and action—qualities that inspire us to engage with the world and make a difference. We'll explore:

- The Power to Shine, recognizing their unique gifts and how they can bring light to others.
- The Power of Passion, discovering what excites and motivates them.
- The Power of Action, learning how passion fuels meaningful change.
- The Power of Reaching Out, understanding how connection strengthens our community.

These lessons encourage our children to move beyond ideas into action, just as fire spreads and transforms. I invite you to talk with them about what they feel passionate about and how they can take action in their lives.

Thank you for your support in helping nurture these values. Wishing you a wonderful month!

Warm regards,

Sharon and Pin, Religious Education Teachers

Below is a preview of our RE classes for March.

**Mar 2.** We'll add fire symbols and the action words Shine, Passion, Action, and Reaching Out to the Elements Mural.

**Mar 9.** Inspired by a true story of unbelievable giving, the children will explore where they might find their own passion for making change in the world.

**Mar 16.** We'll listen to a true story about the world coming together, taking the heat to fight climate change. This is followed by a video and discussion of taking action.

**Mar 23.** Today, we'll begin making a tool or a game that's powered by wind or solar energy. We'll brainstorm in the weeks prior and start working today.

**Mar 30.** We'll finish projects from the previous week and begin discussing an opposing power—water. We'll add water symbols and the action words Persistence and Gathering to the Elements Mural.

## Discussion Group

The Discussion Group's topic for March 21 is *Technology and Society*: Explore the impact of technology on society, including privacy concerns, automation's effect on jobs, and the digital divide.

If you're interested, join our email list ([ufdiscussion@gmail.com](mailto:ufdiscussion@gmail.com)) to get pertinent info about what we're discussing. Anyone who wants to join the group is welcome. Not all members are UU, and we encourage people of the community to join. Our group web page URL is <https://www.wantage.us/unitarian-fellowship-discussion-group>.

### UUFSC WEBSITE CHANGES

Our technical group has upgraded our website, <https://www.uunewtonnj.org>, recently. You're encouraged to visit the site and provide feedback via the Contact menu tab. Constructive comments are welcomed.

Additional photos will be added as the spring weather provides some greenery.

Sunday service links for the hybrid service will be provided on the Home page.

Our Sunday service Google Meet links may be in a state of flux due to some technical changes, but the links provided to you via email and those presented on the website should be accurate.

## UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$100 supermarket gift cards each month. Help the Fellowship earn 5% of each card purchased directly from the store, at no cost to you. Thanks!



# RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

RaiseRight, formerly known as ShopWithScrip, continues to offer the Fellowship a wonderful way to raise needed funds as you shop. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards that you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.



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OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

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