

# The Quest

JANUARY 2025  
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR JANUARY



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, which are the same every week, are online at [meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj](https://meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj) or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

**Jan 5. The Wasteland.** T.S. Eliot wrote *The Wasteland* when World War I ended. The world held its breath, wondering if the “war to end all wars” would take us down another mountain of pain and destruction. Today, Ned will take us through the poet’s seminal 20th-century work and its impact. Led by Ned Hamilton.

**Jan 12. Wildflowers of Sussex County.** For those who feel down in these gray depths of winter, today we’ll have just what the doctor ordered! Naturalists and photographers Ann and Phil will give a wonderful presentation of their photography all over our communities, focusing on the wildflowers that are all around us, reminding us of some of the most uplifting parts of the “interdependent web of all existence.” Led by Ann and Phil Schaming.

**Jan 19. The Long, Long Arc of History.** Abolitionist Unitarian minister Theodore Parker was the originator of, “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” In times in which the bend is hard to perceive, it’s useful to grasp just how long the arc really is. Led by Reverend Daniel Berger, retired Unitarian minister.

**Jan 26. Unleashing The Heart’s Potential.** Professor Nabil Marshood, a distinguished Fulbright Scholar and Professor Emeritus at Hudson County Community College, is the author of *The Gift of Love—Insight into The Art of Empowerment and Self Discovery*. He’ll read from his book and lead an in-depth discussion about exploring the profound realms of love. Led by Dr. Nabil Marshood.

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:



## Share Your Time in 2025: Volunteer!

The new year is here. What should we do with it? Lose weight? Quit bad habits? Travel more? I'm betting you've done those things in prior years. Here's a different idea—volunteer.

Many UU members already do this, but for others, it's something to consider. You might select a food bank, a thrift store, a shelter, or any other organization dedicated to helping people in need.

You might also consider our own Fellowship. We need volunteers for Sunday coffee hours and volunteers to pick up kitchen and bathroom essentials when we run out. We also need people to sit on our Program Committee, Aesthetics Committee, Social Action Committee, and Fellowship Support Committee.

The Program Committee is a major concern. Richard Goffman, who also is our board secretary, heads up this committee. But he has no regular help from other members. And what a challenge Richard faces. Rev. Mansfield is gone. Unless we quickly find a new minister, Richard will have to develop a Sunday program for every single week through the end of May. He's doing a fine job, but it's a lot to ask of one person. What have you encountered in your life that struck you as very interesting and very important? The answer may well be a good subject for a presentation, either from a guest speaker or from you, yourself. We're after programs that everyone will enjoy and learn from—programs that may bring new members into the fold.

If you have program ideas, but don't want the "responsibility" of being on a committee, that's okay. Pass those ideas along to Richard.

Thanks, and all the best in 2025!

Stu

***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.**

## 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!



# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear families and friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a joyful holiday season. In Religious Education, we're starting the new year focusing on *The Power of Presence* and *The Power of Silence*, both parts of *The Powers Within You* unit we're exploring this year.

In *The Power of Presence*, the children will explore how offering our full attention and care can strengthen relationships and how to practice this in their own lives—whether it's listening to a friend, spending time with family, or offering kindness to someone in need.

Through *The Power of Silence*, we'll learn to seek out quiet, helping us connect with our inner selves and hear the things we might miss in the noise of everyday life. We'll practice some simple ways to embrace silence and see it as a source of strength and peace.

On behalf of the RE children, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the Mitten Tree last month. Thanks to your generosity, we collected many warm items for those in need. The kids loved being part of this meaningful project, and it was a great way for them to see the power of community and kindness in action.

Warm regards,

Sharon and Pin, Religious Education Teachers

Below is a preview of our RE classes for January.

**Jan 5.** We'll listen to and discuss a story of non-violent activism. Then, we'll play the Angel Presence Game, in which the children must use all their senses, other than sight, to detect the presence of others around them.

**Jan 12.** The children will make tied-together blankets for people who are ill, in the hospital, or needing loving support. If time allows, we'll work in pairs, doing a movement activity called "mirroring" to practice awareness and presence.

**Jan 19.** We'll listen to and discuss the story *One Square Inch* of silence. Then, the children will make sound observations that they'll record, classify, and discuss the effects of.

**Jan 26.** The children will learn to identify and appreciate nature sounds, reminding us that we share this world with many other beings and that we need to make sure there's a place for each one. Afterward, we'll participate in a silent meditation.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

The Discussion Group's topic for January 17th is *Eternal Creations: Is anything, other than the creations of the human mind, eternal?* Moderated by Phil Schaming.

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>.

## Guest at Your Table

Please don't forget that donations can be made through January 5, at <http://donate.uusc.org/uufsc24>. If you prefer, checks made out to UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) can be given to Susan Felsen or sent to her home address.



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OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

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