

# The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County**

**1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ 07860**

## Programs for December 2025

Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30.

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#.

### **Sunday December 7: "Only Courage"**

An illustrated story written a century ago, our reflections on these days of December's darkness, and our experience of the heart's great strengths amidst the most challenging circumstances, lead us to thoughts about courage.

Led by Mary Tiebout.

### **Sunday December 14: "A View of Our Politics from Italy"**

Cynthia Mackowicz shares anecdotal observations of foreign reactions to Trumpian politics gleaned during her brief stay this past September with her family in Italy.

### **Sunday December 21: "Ceremony of Lights"**

Members and friends of the Fellowship and their families and friends are invited to this holiday service that explores and celebrates the various celebrations (Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, Winter Solstice) that happen around this time of year. Join the celebration as we hear the stories and sing the songs of these holidays and focus on the symbols of light central to their celebration.

Holiday refreshments served after the service.

Led by Mary Tiebout, Jeff Wallis, and members and friends of the Fellowship.

### **Sunday December 28: "Compassion in Human Relations"**

Compassion is an important value that we, as UU's, are called to act upon. But what does compassion look like, especially in the context of human relations? What does it mean in the state of the world that we find ourselves in, where callous disregard for the other has become so common?

Presented by Pauline E. Nijander, seminarian at the UU Congregation at Princeton.

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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.

## ***Dear Fellowship Friends,***



*Though we're approaching December's darkest days, there are moments when the light provides a beauty that warms our hearts. The photos to the left show where some of our warm-hearted friends and neighbors have been in the past week. At top, there's UU minister, Rev. Charles Loflin, rallying support in Trenton for the Climate Superfund Act. He spoke moments after Bill McKibben left the podium. You can see the corner of the blue banner with the chalice, held by members of UU FaithActionNJ. There were a good number of UUs at the rally.*



*The bags of food plus needed health and household items were gathered on a tarp on the Newton Green on Saturday. Despite the windy and cloudy day, several fellowship members and friends attended the rally in support of people who are facing economic hardship and food insecurity at this time. I had wonderful conversations with good caring and concerned neighbors.*



*A speaker from Indivisible Sussex listed the county organizations that participated in and supported the day's event. To the far right in the photo are two of many local police officers who were present, and, like my experience in June, they were cheerful and helpful while stopping traffic for pedestrians at the crosswalks.*



*The photo at the bottom is of a very cheerful group who gathered for lunch at the Lake House Café in Andover. This was a fling event sponsored by Joy and Wayne Daniel. Their son, Jonathan, was our wonderful host. Though many of us still mourn the loss of our dear friend Wayne, and we were all sorry that Joy could not be with us for lunch, we sent her this photo and sent our cheerful greetings and thanks.*

*We could include with these photos the table at our fellowship where we collected food for pets for the Sparta Food Pantry and where we now donate food for people in need. This month, we'll give our support to the UUSC through the Guest at Your Table program. I made two trips to Delaney Hall in Newark in the last two weeks, bringing Shoprite gift cards for families of detainees. Your generosity enables me to be generous, so those gift cards come from you as well.*

*With love and gratitude, I wish you all a joyful December!  
Mary T.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



## Dear UUFSC Members

As we gather together in fellowship and prepare for the holiday season, we have some exciting updates and gentle reminders to share with you all. Thank you for being such a vital part of our welcoming and vibrant community!

**Show Your UUFSC Pride!** Great news—the new UUFSC t-shirts have arrived! Wearing your shirt is a wonderful way to show our community who we are and what we stand for. If you missed the first order, don't worry! Simply contact Anne Bouchenoire, and she'll make sure you get yours.



**Welcome with Name Tags** As we continue to welcome visitors to our fellowship for services and coffee hour, please remember to wear your name tag. While we all know each other well, wearing our name tags helps newcomers feel included and welcome. When everyone wears one, visitors don't feel singled out—it's a small gesture that makes a big difference!

Whether you're traveling over the holiday season or staying close to home, we wish you a peaceful and happy time. May the new year bring you many blessings.

Happy Winter!  
Andi Randall  
President UUFSC

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

Our topic for the December 19th meeting is **Health and Wellness in Later Life**

Discuss strategies for staying physically active, maintaining mental sharpness, and adapting to health changes. This could cover everything from new hobbies that promote well being to navigating healthcare systems and supporting friends through challenges.

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.uunewtonnj.org/index.php/discussion-group>.

**“Promoting Positive Change Through Peaceable Actions and Kindness”** - A workshop designed to give participants tools to foster nonviolence and kindness in our community and with our children. Please email Heidi Keller at [kellerhe18@yahoo.com](mailto:kellerhe18@yahoo.com) by December 7 if you are interested in attending this free-of-charge workshop. This workshop will be offered in January based on responses of interest. Please include weekday mornings you are generally available in order to choose a popular date in January.

## Fellowship Space Available

If you or a group is looking for a space to meet, please consider the availability of the Fellowship building, which can be reserved for a donation. Please contact Phil Schaming to inquire about available dates.

## Drum Circle Saturday December 6th 2pm

Everyone is Welcome.

No experience necessary.

Borrow a drum if you don't have one!

10 dollar donation

To benefit the UUFSC

Fellowship



## UU FaithAction NJ - Join Us

We invite UU FaithAction NJ supporters and friends to gather for just one hour on the first and third Fridays of each month to take action and experience the joy and power of community.

Charles Loflin will prime us on the issues of the moment, and then we will make our calls at this critical time.

Friday December 5th and 12th lame duck calls to action.

Join us on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94313960594?pwd=OTFDdUdocmY1ckZNZFRyemp6V2NiZz09>

For more information about UU FaithAction NJ, visit our website: [ufaithaction.org](http://ufaithaction.org)

Contact Chris Dunbar, 201 697 7815, for further insights into this program.



## **Guest at Your Table**

Guest at Your Table is UUSC's annual program which raises support for and awareness about key human rights issues. These are the programs being supported for the 2025 program.

1. Innovative migration justice leaders housing LGBTQIA asylum seekers in Philadelphia.
2. A Honduran community of water defenders carrying on the legacy of the late Juan Lopez.
3. Political prisoner Ruth Lopez fighting for government accountability and human rights in El Salvador.
4. Haitian activists fighting for the rights of people in migration.

Contributions of \$150 are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

Any and all contributions will be very appreciated and can be given to Susan Felsen (in person or sent to her home address: 52 Winding Way, Byram Township, NJ07821) or can be made on line at <https://donate.uusc.org/uufsc25>. Checks should be made out to UUSC (**not UUFSC**).

Just pure fun and amazement: Jim Kasprzak's enduring Spring Fling Event at Storm King.



Photos provided by  
Chris Dunbar



**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.



RaiseRight 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.

Act Now! Currently, the RaiseRight Gift Card purchase program is not being used by members of the Fellowship and may be discontinued due to a lack of interest.



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY

**President: Andrea (Andi) Randall**  
**Vice-President: Phil Schaming**  
**Treasurer: Stu Feldstein**  
**Secretary: Christine Dunbar**  
**Quest Editor: Phil Schaming**