

The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County**

1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ 07860

Programs for November 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 or by phone at 478-308-5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

Please note to turn you clocks back Sunday November 2nd.

Sunday, November 2: "Science, Spirit, and Awe"

Notable individuals have, over many centuries, viewed and understood life and reality through the lenses of both science and spirit. Many of us do that as well, and at times we stand in awe in the presence of something truly magnificent.

Led by Mary Tiebout.

Sunday, November 9: "Embracing the 'Bigger We'"

In a time of deep skepticism that asks if democracy is up to the task of reconciling the chasm that separates us, there is also the great sense that we must. But how? Can we embrace the "bigger we"? Presented by

Rev. Charles Loflin, Executive Director, UU FaithAction NJ.

Sunday, November 16: "In the Service of Generosity"

People of all ages, but especially elders, our own and those from other times and lands, have taught us about compassion and living in service to others. Led by Mary Tiebout.

November 23: "Who wrote the Bible?"

Jerry Sattin will lead a discussion of why some scholars believe that the Old Testament was written by people who lived in different times, different places, and with different traditions. We will journey through some ancient history and read the first few chapters of Genesis.

Feel free to bring your Bibles.

November 30: "How would they react?"

Imagine how the greatest Unitarians of the past would react to what's going on in the USA today. Led by Stu Feldstein

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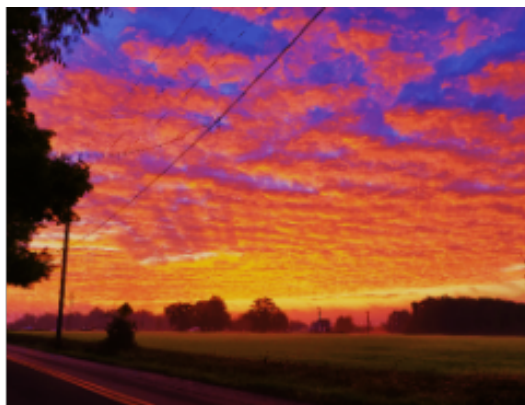


We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- 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. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

Along the Path...



Dear Fellowship Friends,

October has been a beautiful month in Nature's realm, and thank goodness! Thank the sunrise, thank our lifelong companion, Sister Moon, or some might say, Mister Moon, or Grandmother Moon. Thank the bright colored leaves, the rain clouds, and rain. Thank the farmers, the bakers, the egg-sellers, and bee-keepers. Thank the road crew fixing the potholes before winter, thank the guy who pumps gas who tells you about his son doing better at school, thank the guy at the other gas station who tells you what other language he speaks and how he pronounces the word for "Thank you."

Amid all that is happening, on that human-made level of organization that our human population seems to require, that thing called government, there is something else happening at the individual level, the family level, the community level. Life.

Life continues to offer its beauty and miracles, which remind us of what we want to protect and what we need to defend. Life calls us to look after other lives, which we do in our communities, and which we do through our efforts as a Unitarian Universalist fellowship. At the end of October, we'll deliver our pet food donations to the Sparta Community Food Pantry. A team from our fellowship continues to serve meals at Manna House. And we now have a donation container in our parking lot that brings in a monthly sum just for having it there, but most importantly, it collects gently used clothing that can be given to people in need.

I'm not aware of all the ways that our fellowship members and friends donate time and resources to help neighbors, to protect our environment, to support local non-profit organizations, but what I do hear about makes me proud. And makes me grateful. Which is a good way to be as we turn the calendar to November and turn our clocks forward on the night of November 1st.

*With warm wishes and great thanks to all,
Mary*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



I hope you are doing well. I wanted to share an update on several matters affecting our fellowship.

In late September, our boiler, which provides hot water and heating for the building, underwent a recall repair. During this process, the technician discovered that the boiler was producing unsafe levels of carbon monoxide, leading to its immediate shutdown for safety. Further inspection revealed that the boiler had been incorrectly adjusted, resulting in damage to the valve. We are immensely grateful to the Dempseys for graciously covering this expense. Thank you, Laura and Kevin, for your unwavering support!

In response to recent acts of violence targeting religious organizations, including incidents in Grand Blanc, Michigan, a discussion on safety and whether to lock the doors took place during coffee hour on Sunday, October 19. A vote was taken, and it was decided that the person covering the Welcome Desk would lock the door 15 minutes after services had started (10:45). It's important to note that this decision was made collectively, reflecting our community's commitment to safety. If anyone wishes to enter after that time, they may use their key or ring the doorbell to gain admittance.

I hope to see you at the service soon. Please remember that only your active participation and support can sustain the UUFSC now and into the future.

Andi Randall
President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

Our topic for November 21, 2025 **Artificial Intelligence and Its Implications**

Analyze how AI is transforming various fields from healthcare to scientific research itself. Discuss both the exciting possibilities and potential concerns, drawing on your experience to evaluate AI's impact on society and scientific discovery.

If you're interested, join our email list (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>.

RE Announcement

We hope to begin a Religious Education program. What we need is a commitment from children to attend regularly throughout the year, along with a dedicated team of adults to help lead the program. We'll have a sign-up sheet for participants and volunteers where children will be welcome to attend.

If you have questions, please email our minister, Mary, at minister@uunewtonnj.org, or speak to either Mary or Andi at the fellowship on Sunday mornings.

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.

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.

Join us on Zoom:

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

For more information about UU FaithAction NJ, visit our website: uufaithaction.org

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

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.**

EYES ON TRENTON – UU FaithAction NJ

Buoyed by the words of wisdom and solidarity, Guest Speaker The Reverend Dr. Charles Franklin Boyer, a third-generation African Methodist Episcopal preacher, spoke to the urgency of our collective mission at the UU FaithAction Issues Conference on Saturday, Oct 18 at the UU Congregation of Princeton. UUs in attendance were rejuvenated and comforted in our unity to continue the difficult work of passing meaningful state legislation that reflect our UU principles and values.

In addition to renewing our commitment to effect change by calling our representatives in Trenton through bi-monthly, lunch time Action Hours on the first and third Fridays of the month, we were advised of a relatively new method to more effectively communicate our positions on various bills languishing in committees in Trenton. A **phone zap** is a type of call-in campaign where groups of individuals call government representatives to pressure them into supporting a policy or bill. We can do this at any time during the work week. It is a tool of collective action, engaging people who may not have participated in other forms of activism and YOU CAN DO IT FROM HOME! Anyone in the Fellowship is welcome to coordinate with Donna Brady (973) 271-7417 and we can do it through a Google Meet or text. The idea is to tag team to tie up our legislator's phone lines. We should encourage our friends, relatives, and neighbors to participate so that our representatives see a swarm of interest on the bills we support.

Since we are coming up on a lame duck session, we need to work on the People's Lame Duck agenda including: the Reproductive Health Care bill that would protect trans students' rights and the Reproductive Health Care Access Fund (S492) and the nine (9) bills of the Reproductive Freedom and Health Equity Bill Package. The package aims to prepare the state for future attacks on reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy. Also we need to work on the New Jersey Immigration Trust Act (A4987, S3672) that establishes protections for immigrants interacting with government agencies. For information on the bills that are currently stuck in committee, go online and go to LEGISCAN.

The time to act is now before all of these bills die in Trenton and we have to start all over again!!! Contact Donna Brady (973-271-7417) if you have any suggestions or questions.

November Food Pantry

This November, the Fellowship will once again be collecting food items to support the efforts of the Sparta Community Food Pantry (www.thespartacommunityfoodpantry.com). In case you're looking for ideas, the pantry is specifically requesting cereal (hot and cold), pasta and pasta sauce, meals in a can, juice, boxed milk, coffee and tea, boxed mac and cheese, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned protein, toilet paper, and paper towels. Please leave your donations in the bins provided downstairs. Contact Hal Cohen with any questions. We appreciate your support for this very important community program.



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. 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
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