

# The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County**

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

## Programs for October 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 October 5 - "Transformation"**

As one of the values that Unitarian Universalists share, we'll explore, through story and conversation, ways in which transformation, by way of inner or outer sources or encounters, has shaped our lives, helping us to become more centered on love. Led by Mary Tiebout.

### **Sunday October 12 - "A Sociological Approach to Mortality"**

After his exploration of the nature of love last year, Dr. Nabil Marshood returns to UUFSC to share his newest important insights. Today he applies his sociological lens to the all-too-relevant question of Mortality.

Dr. Marshood is a Fulbright Scholar, educator, and author. He is a recipient of the Mid-Career Fellowship from Princeton University, concentrating on social theory and sociology of religion. Dr. Marshood also received grants for offering lectures and community programs about peace, conflict resolution, and religious pluralism.

### **Sunday October 19 - "Witches and Ghosts"**

We've seen these images displayed in grocery stores since August, and while there's some fun in the Halloween hype, we're going to talk about real ghosts, real events experienced on a personal or national level that do, and in some cases, should always haunt us. Led by Mary Tiebout.

### **Sunday October 26 - "Why Bother?"**

Is this coming together every week worth anything?  
Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield

October 2025  
VOL. 61, NO. 2



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,

At our all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in 2024, delegates passed a proposal to adopt a statement of our Shared Values. Our UUA Bylaws require that a review and updating of the statements that describe our movement be done every 15 years, and though our well-known and well-loved and well-discussed list of Principles still remains as part of our tradition, we have a new way to describe who we are, what we value, and what we seek. The lively diagram included above shows that our values – transformation, pluralism, generosity, interdependence, equity and justice – are based on and held together by the power of love.

Over the course of the next few months, on one Sunday per month, we'll focus on one of those values. Since something that I heard on the radio started a conversation in my mind that touched especially on one of them, and to a degree, all the others, we'll begin with the one conveniently placed in the diagram on the top left – transformation.

During the remaining days of September, while we remember and honor our dear friends, Bill Bennett and Wayne Daniel, at their memorial services, and as the falling leaves of October liven our vistas with their bright warm colors, I hope that this autumn beauty accompanies us while we do the work of our hands and hearts and minds, and that it will bring us the strength and grace we need to do it all in the spirit of love, gratitude and joy.

As always, I'm grateful to be doing this work, this shared ministry, with you.  
Happy Autumn!

Mary

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Dear Members, Friends, and Visitors of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County, I hope this message finds you well. As your Fellowship President, I want to take a moment to reflect on where we are and where we can go together.

Our Fellowship is at a crossroads. Our membership is declining, and we are facing financial challenges, with a projected \$15,000 deficit for this fiscal year. While we are working to reduce that deficit, we must balance the budget using our savings. If we do nothing, we risk losing our minister, our meeting place, and the beacon of liberal values we offer in our community.

But I believe this can change. I believe in the power of ordinary people coming together for an extraordinary purpose. When our hands and hearts are united, we can shape a vibrant future. We can be the welcoming and loving community where new families, seekers, and dreamers find a home. This can be the place where we find the strength to navigate these challenging times and make a difference.

In the weeks ahead, Stu Feldstein has volunteered to gather your ideas so the Board can create a plan to chart a path forward. But this work cannot be done alone. It is work for all of us.

So I ask you: Will you bring your creativity, your time, your commitment, and your voice? Will you lend your hands to the work of reinvigorating our Fellowship—not just for ourselves, but for those yet to come?

The future of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County is not set. It will be written by us—by our commitment and our willingness to answer the call. Let us be a congregation that says: YES. We can choose to act. We can choose to rebuild. We can choose to keep the light of this chalice shining brightly.

With hope and determination,

**Andi**

President, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

Our topic for October 17, 2025 **Intergenerational Perspectives**

Compare how different generations approach technology, work-life balance, social issues, and family dynamics. This can lead to rich conversations about changing social norms and what wisdom each generation offers.

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>.

## RE Announcement

We hope to begin a Religious Education program in October. 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](mailto:minister@uunewtonnj.org), or speak to either Mary or Andi at the fellowship on Sunday mornings.

## Fellowship Space Available for Rent

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.

## PET FOOD DRIVE

October is the month that our Fellowship supports the Sussex County Food Bank with Pet Food donations. We have always been very generous in the past, and my hope is that we will continue to be so. There will be a bin downstairs to collect your donations. Please consider bringing in a donation for a cat and dog each Sunday during October. Imagine all the tail wags and purrs we can make happen! If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you, Susan Felsen

## 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](http://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.**

# Spring Fling Event August 23, 2025

On August 23, Patty Hegarty, the VP of the Mt. Tabor Historical Society, led 4 UUFSC members on an enjoyable Spring Fling walking tour of Mt. Tabor, a historical community just south of Denville. Founded in 1869 as a Methodist religious revival tented campground (similar to Ocean Grove), it has evolved into a quaint, secular residential community with Victorian-era homes. Today it is on the NJ and National Register of Historic Places.

We had an interesting visit to Historical Mt. Tabor that began as a Methodist Community, similar to Ocean Grove, after the Civil War in 1869. The community grew large through time and went from tents to small homes and then larger ones on around 200 acres. It became incorporated into Parsippany in 1980 yet still maintains quite a cozy ambiance and character uncommonly found anywhere.. Here are a few images taken on the historical walk given by guide Patty of their Historical Society.

Jeff, Hal, Barbara and I standing in front of a house whose porch and roof were modified for trees (currently died and removed) to grow through. Jeff, Hal and Barbara with tour guide Patty in the Green where hundreds of residents would gather to hear sermons, Hal standing in front of the open air pavilion where lectures were given from, and my favorite house (purple with acorns for trimming!).



**Presented by  
Christine Dunbar**



## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome back to a new season. I hope you all enjoyed the summer.


On behalf of the Fellowship, I want to thank those who have already submitted a pledge form. If you haven't submitted one yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. It's helpful to receive a form even if you're a longstanding pledger. Receiving these forms allows us to properly plan for the 2025/2026 year. Remember, you don't have to send a payment right away. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.


**A blank pledge form appears on page 7.**

Thank you, and best wishes for the year ahead, Ned Hamilton



**UU FaithAction NJ**  **October 18, 2025**  
Fall Issues Conference Princeton, NJ | Virtual on Zoom

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Charles Boyer** 

**Salvation and Social Justice**  *The Role for Faith-Based Social Justice Advocacy*  
Liberating Public Policy Theologically



### Homecoming 2025 at Murray Grove: Living Love at the Center

Come to Murray Grove on Saturday, October 4th for our annual Homecoming '25 Celebration: Living Love at the Center! The day will be filled with music, comedy, workshops, panels, and a local nonprofit showcase.

Our keynote speaker will be Charlene D. Walker, Executive Director of Faith in New Jersey, a powerful leader in racial justice, grassroots organizing, and interfaith collaboration. We'll also welcome Rodney Salomon of KYDS (Konscious Youth Development & Service), a transformational speaker who empowers youth and families through mindfulness, wellness, and community connection.

Make it a full weekend! Stay overnight at Murray Grove. We'll share food, fellowship, and Saturday evening activities. Sunday, Rev. Charles Loflin will lead worship in the old chapel. Overnight lodging is available at a special Homecoming discount. Just call us to reserve!

**Tickets:** [www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org) (\$25 suggested donation, kids under 12 free, scholarships are available).

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UUA,  
UUCER, AND UU FAITH ACTION**

For the new year, the Board will be paying about \$100 in dues per member to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), UU Central East Region (UUCER), and UU FaithAction NJ on your behalf. You will receive a copy of each edition of *UU World* magazine and can access other programs and resources from each organization by going to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), [www.uua.org/central-east](http://www.uua.org/central-east), and [www.uufaithaction.org](http://www.uufaithaction.org). Please consider reimbursing the Fellowship for these dues, if possible.

Please complete the Annual Dues/Pledge Form below and return it to Ned Hamilton. .  
You can elect to pay your pledge as a single, quarterly, monthly or weekly payment.

**ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM**  
**July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**

Please retain this portion for your records:

Total Dues/Pledged (2025-26) \*        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut here

---

Please return this portion to: Ned Hamilton 558A Glen Road, Sparta, NJ 07871  
or email this page to [nedhamilton205@gmail.com](mailto:nedhamilton205@gmail.com).

Member Name(s): First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Dues/Pledged (2025-26) \*        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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: Ned Hamilton**  
**Secretary: Christine Dunbar**  
**Quest Editor: Phil Schaming**