

# The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County**

September 2025  
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## Programs for September 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, Sept. 7 - "Ingathering and Water Ceremony"**

With our traditional intergenerational Ingathering Sunday celebration, we begin a new Fellowship year. Remember to bring a small container of water from your travels, your home, or from another meaningful source. Led by Mary Tiebout.

### **Sunday, Sept. 14 - "Answering the Call, Action Is Our Future"**

For many of us, family, friends, and health are at the top of our priority list. And rightly so. But as we consider where we delegate our time and energy, where does the community here at UUFSC fit in? Led by Andi Randall

### **Sunday, Sept. 21 - "Let There Be Light – A Sun Day Celebration"**

This weekend, inspired by Bill McKibben, we will join people around the world to learn about the pressing need to take meaningful action regarding alternatives to fossil fuel-based energy. At the same time, we'll connect to deep wisdom from religious traditions and spiritual and ethical principles. Led by Mary Tiebout.

### **Sunday, Sept. 28 - "Indivisible"**

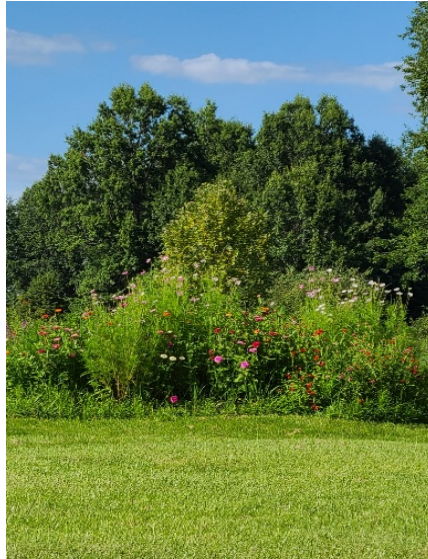
Indivisible is a progressive movement and organization in the United States initiated in 2016 as a reaction to the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. Together we fight to defeat the rightwing takeover of American government and build an inclusive democracy. Presented by Christine Henry and Shannon Neville-Greenwood.

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.

# *Along the path...*



It's with deep gratitude and great hope that I begin this fellowship year with you! And yes, after a three-year semi-retirement to help take care of my parents, I feel, in a way, like I'm just waking up from a very long nap, asking both, "Where was I?", but also "Where are we?"

We're here, holding our liberal doors open in Sussex County to welcome people who seek community, friendship, allies, inspiration, and a place to give voice to their hopes and fears during these challenging times.

We're here, supporting each other through personal loss, health concerns, and other difficulties.

We're here, celebrating our joys and lifting our spirits through good humor and cherished memories.

We're here, sharing our wisdom, ideas, creative gifts, and our many resources within and beyond our walls.

We're here, delighting in the beauty of Sussex County as summer ends and autumn's festival of colors awaits.

We're here, ready to engage as citizens motivated by our deeply-held UU values, our commitment to justice, and our determination to defend our democracy against those who would threaten it, for the peace and well-being of ourselves and for the generations that follow.

We're here, seeking to grow in love in this beautiful struggling world.

In my travels early this summer, I stood before large maps at parks and rest stops, finding the marker that said, "You are here."

We're here! To those who are new to our fellowship, welcome, and to all who are returning, welcome back!

Mary T.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



As I've been attending board meetings these past few months, one thing has become clear: UUFSC is sustained by a small but dedicated group of volunteers who care deeply about this Fellowship. Their energy inspires me—and reminds me how vital this community is.

Like many spiritual communities, we face challenges, including financial struggles, lower attendance, and a smaller membership. Yet I see these not just as obstacles, but as opportunities for renewal.

## **Finances**

Currently, our budget relies on dipping into our savings, something we cannot sustain. This year, we'll need to take a close look at our expenses and find new ways to generate revenue. With creativity and teamwork, I believe we can meet this challenge.

## **Attendance**

On Sundays, we typically welcome 12–18 people in person and a few more online. With Reverend Mary's return, we have an excellent opportunity to re-energize worship and make our gatherings even more welcoming. How can we encourage more of our members to return? And how can we make Sundays irresistible for newcomers?

## **Membership**

While our Fellowship is smaller and older than it once was, our future is far from dim. Sussex County is home to many people seeking meaning, justice, and community in uncertain times. We can be that spiritual home. A vital part of welcoming new and younger members will be reimagining our Religious Education (RE) program. RE Director Sharon Tominac has resigned as the RE Director and will be attending services at the Morristown UU with her son, where he will have other children to interact with. Pin Smith has also resigned. We are grateful to both Sharon and Pin for their contributions to our fellowship. We will miss them! Their departure prompts us to envision new ways to serve families and children in the years ahead.

Yes, the challenges are real—but so is our potential. With hope, creativity, and a shared spirit, I believe we can strengthen and grow UUFSC. I'm excited for the year ahead, and I hope you are too!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first Sunday service of the season on **September 7th** and to hearing from you about how you can be part of our shared journey this year.

Andrea (Andi) Randall

President

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

The Discussion Group has been active throughout the summer months. Both “Being Happy At What You Do” and “Immortality” were discussed.

Join us on September 19th for our next topic. 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 are sad to announce that Religious Education (RE) Director Sharon Tominac and Assistant Pin Smith have decided not to continue with the RE program and the Fellowship. 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 at our September services, 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.

## 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: [uufaction.org](http://uufaction.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.**

# 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**  
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