

CONNECTIONS

October 2017

Welcome Reverend Paula Maiorano

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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It is an honor for me that I was selected to join the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark in the role of temporary pastoral minister created for your time of transition.

It is my hope that people will avail themselves of my services to help with the pain and loss, stress and anxiety that are naturally present when a negotiated settlement ends a ministry. Feelings are usually very complicated in such a time and may include anger, sadness, and deep grief.

Pastoral care includes both emotional and spiritual support. Indeed, the two share a common boundary and are very much inter-related. Your feelings may reveal a disconnect between the ideal and the real, with a sense of almost disbelief that what happened, could happen in a congregation such as yours.

It is my role to join with you, whatever your feelings or spiritual orientation, to be your companion, and perhaps guide, through the difficult terrain.

If the fellowship is to be once again strong, whole, and vibrant, individuals need be so as well. Healing takes time. The presence of someone in the role of pastoral minister can help.

I will be publishing times of availability weekly and can see you at other times by appointment as well. Please feel free to contact me at minister@uufn.org, or by phone. My cell is (302) 545 2659.

With caring regard,

Rev Paula Maiorano

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October Share the Plate

Meeting of the Minds



The Meeting of Minds program at the Newark Senior Center provides care and social activities for elderly people with some memory loss and often some limited mobility. Participants are often living with their children and have very limited financial means. Many participants cannot pay the very low cost and need "scholarship assistance" which must be covered by donations. Several program volunteers are UUFN members.

President's Message

One thing that I am learning about my job as president is that you need to be ready and able to roll with the changes.

This month's article, and a focus of our State of the Fellowship congregational meeting on November 5 was going to be about revising our current budget, since it does not conform to our new reality. But the income side of our budget is still a big question mark. Although we know how many members and friends have formally resigned, we are thinking that there may be unannounced resignations, and so we do not have confidence yet in predicting our pledge income for this church year. Only time will tell.

Staff and staffing

We had a good discussion at our September 7 congregational conversation about staff and staffing. What came through loud and clear is that members are very cost-conscious this year—that's a good thing. As a result of that meeting, we decided to postpone indefinitely the search for a choir director. Instead, there was promising talk afterwards of the choir "pulling itself up by the bootstraps" and working on some musical numbers, or perhaps helping the congregation with newer or more difficult hymns.

At the time of that meeting, we were down to zero staff. I am pleased to report that we are now at least up to a staff of one, with our hiring Rev. Paula Maiorano as our temporary pastoral care minister. We are close to hiring a new office assistant, and that may have been completed by the time you read this. There are no plans at present to staff up beyond this.

A congregational conversation about our campus and infrastructure?

But what if we were to end this or some future church year with a surplus of funds? I know that may sound far-fetched to some, but what if? Would we use it in major repairs to our campus? Would we pay down debt? I am thinking that now, in this year of transition, we may want to begin that conversation. As a good example of being intentional and deliberate, First UU Wilmington recently posed the question to a task force as to whether their current location, at which they have made their spiritual home for many years, was still appropriate. Do we have the courage to ask similar questions about our campus?

A new spirit of volunteerism?

Someone mentioned to me recently that there seems to be a new energy among UUFN members, stepping up to do things. That sounds right. I know that I was overwhelmed with the response I got to my request for volunteers to be on the ministerial transitions task force. The thinking among the UUFN lay leaders is that folks are willing to perform a task, even a recurring one, but are reluctant to join a committee. After all, no one says to

themselves, "There's a void in my life, and I feel the only way to fill it is to serve on a committee." (with plagiarism apologies to another UU newsletter) To that end, we are going to try to refocus our "traditional" Committee Sunday event this year to emphasize jobs that need to get done, rather than joining a committee in whose domain that job resides. Sunday, October 15.

Chalice circles

In looking through the September issue of Connections, what struck me was, "Wow, we have got a lot going on!" And though there was a write-up last month about it, I want to "plug" the chalice circles because it seems to me that in this year of transition and rebuilding, chalice circles will be particularly important. Chalice Circles are small groups of perhaps half a dozen people who get together to share their ideas about a particular theme, "hope," for example. In doing so, they also practice in deep listening. It is exploring spirituality on a deeper and more intimate level.

Bylaws revision, and "Historian, anyone?"

I close my column by reporting on a subcommittee working to improve our bylaws. This group has been at work since at least February, and our Bylaws governing document has been studied at least since May of 2016. Our Board is working on becoming more efficient and more strategic. Rev. Pyle, a governance expert, provided us with three possible governance scenarios. The Bylaws subcommittee is working on the most modest of the three "change" scenarios. Basically, it would keep the essence of our current governance structure but permit us to operate more efficiently. For example, it would move reference to most committees and their function out of the Bylaws and into a policy manual. This would give the Board more flexibility, as the Board would be able to change a policy, whereas the congregation is required to change the Bylaws. However, since changing the Bylaws is what is being proposed, even after one knows what one wants to change, it is a long, drawn-out process because any process that requires a congregational vote will also require educating the congregation as to what is being proposed for change. We are aiming to introduce the proposed changes at the November congregational meeting, and there begin the education process, hopefully culminating in a vote at the Winter congregational meeting.

By the way, did you know that our current Bylaws require a UUFN Historian?

In fellowship,
Jeff Ramberg

UUFN Sunday Services

October 1—This is Us, Part II

Six months ago we knew we were facing some major changes at UUFN, although we didn't know then just how many there would be. We had a pretty good idea of who we were six months ago. Who are we now? Are we the same "Us"? How are we the same? How are we changed? Who will we be six months or a year from now? Let's ponder these questions together. Presented by Laura Anderson

October 8—Make It Sacred

How can we calm our need for certainty and safety when we live in uncertain and disruptive times? We will explore ways to view this world with reverence, and ideas to create sacred space for all the ups and downs we experience each day. Presented by Joan Wheeler

October 15—On Covenant: Promises Made, Kept, Broken, and Renewed

Covenant is central to Unitarian Universalists. However, being human we also sometimes break promises and find ourselves in need of renewing them. This is a service that reflects on all aspects of covenant – promises made, kept, broken, and renewed – especially as covenant is lived out in UU congregations. Presented by Reverend Paula Maiorano

October 22— Go with the Flow

In this music-filled live Jazz service, we will explore when to go with the flow, and when to stand up against it. Presented by Mike Arenson and Gary Jackoway

October 29— Halloween is Here!

UUFN's Roots and Shoots class presents a service. Presented by Rachael Coffey, Ingrid Jackoway, Elizabeth Wickersham, and Ingrid Anderson and the 1st-6th graders present

Religious Education

Religious Education Matters!

RE is off to a busy start. The Chalice Children, our youngest members, are getting to know each other in a safe and nurturing environment and learning about respect for themselves and others.

You may have seen our elementary Roots and Shoots group flying their peace doves outside on September 24 to celebrate Peace Week. In October, they will be exploring the themes of "Who is in our community?" and "Where do they go for help?" They will be working on a few small scale service projects and preparing to present the service for us on October 29, where they will share how we can all be involved!

The middle school Coming-of-Age class also has a productive month planned. They have been learning about other faith traditions, and after meeting their mentors on October 6. They will spend the remainder of October learning about Judaism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam through classroom speakers and visits to other religious homes.

The Youth Group spent their first few weeks creating a covenant and planning for the year. They will be doing a service project every month and also have their own chalice circle one Sunday a month.

October 29 will be a full day at the Fellowship. The Worship Service will be led by the Roots and Shoots class, then we will have "trunk or treat" in the parking lot. In the afternoon, in a long standing UUFN tradition, the Roots and Shoots class (and anyone else who cares to join) will fly their peace doves in the Newark Halloween Parade. Plan to join us for the day!

-Your RE Committee – Karen Barker, Andrea Harding,
Julia van der Veur, Ingrid Jackoway,
Beverly Larock, Jan Arenson

Committee Updates and Announcements

Long Range Planning Committee

Over the past 18 months, the Long Range Planning Committee has asked the congregation what you want and need in your spiritual home. We also held culture and identity workshops to learn more about who we are as a congregation and who we want to be. We are now adding information from our congregational conversations to get a bigger picture of who we are so that we can start the actual planning process.

The unexpected departure of our minister and staff has caused us to slow down recently. We felt the UUFN needs some time for the dust to settle before moving forward with planning; however, we also need to reflect on what we have already learned about our vision of the Fellowship so here is a more detailed summary of all that information.

Our Spiritual Growth and Worship

The congregation wants a diverse approach to spirituality that provides opportunities to be engaged with each other over the course of our lives. We want our spiritual growth to be transformative—in other words it should support personal development and change in significant ways, and we see this taking place in small groups in which we can connect with each other more deeply than on Sunday morning or in activities.

As part of our spiritual effort, we want services that are diverse in terms of format, content, use of technology; and that range from intellectual to inspirational. We would like to see alternative services that use technology and music in new and different ways and that are available at various times.

And finally, we believe that if we offer these things, the UUFN will be a strong presence in the community and attract new congregants.

Religious Education

Religious Education has long been viewed as a key strength, particularly as it relates to children's growth and development into adults. Because of this perspective, the congregation focused on adult RE during the planning phase. The congregation wants more opportunities for stimulating adult programs that will attract people to the UUFN. RE should effectively integrate youth into the greater spiritual and social fabric of the Fellowship through opportunities for age appropriate participation in how things are done in the youth RE program. A fundamental purpose of these efforts is to support connections of people of all ages through activities and recognition.

A great deal has subsequently changed with the loss of our DRE and the reduction in numbers of children but we think that the congregation continues to want a vibrant and healthy RE program across the lifespan.

Social Justice

Social Justice has a high priority for many members and can be viewed either as part of spirituality/worship or in a separate category, which is what we have done. While the congregation views it as part of our mission and recognizes that we are doing good work, a few key things stand out.

- 1) We need to continually develop the Unitarian Universalist spiritual connection to social justice among our congregation.
- 2) We need to improve both the external visibility and internal awareness of UUFN social justice activities; and
- 3) We need to put greater levels of internal coordination and external partnerships into action.

Beloved Community

Throughout our conversations and data collection a significant theme has emerged that what people love and need from UUFN is our presence as a Beloved Community. Members value the strong sense of community that is fostered at UUFN and want to expand that sense of connection and true fellowship that can be found here. Many people feel that UUFN is a center of their social world and the relationships they have found here are important to them. They want to ensure that we continue to take care of each other and are present for each other. This manifests itself through support of the pastoral work that is done at UUFN as well as the ability to hear and share our experiences through Joys & Concerns. As you reflect on the desire to grow spiritually through small group connections and settings, it becomes even more clear that the concept of beloved community is key to our spiritual lives as well.

What's Next?

Other areas of concern mentioned in our efforts include outreach and membership, finances, and our building. They did not resonate as a focus when we were collecting the data, yet we clearly have to pay attention to them now as our membership has dropped, our staff have left, and our financial situation has changed.

This fall we will pick up the challenge of moving forward with our new reality, working with the board and the Continuing Conversations committee to think about both our short-term needs and our long-term goals. Later in the fall we will be sending a census survey with basic demographic questions. We are different than we were six short months ago so this will help us to have a better picture of who we are now. Please keep your eye on the calendar for scheduled meetings, participate in the survey, and help us forge our new tomorrow. We need each and every person's voice.

Committee Updates and Announcements

Fall Cleanup Time

There are coats in the closet that need to be taken home. Also, in the Bistro room there are many items from yoga mats, sleeping, bags, pillows, food and water, blue and pink bags, and many other items too numerous to itemize. Please check if they are they're yours and take them home. If the items are still there by October 15th they will be taken to Goodwill. Please do not put the items in a Klevan's; closet we will be cleaning out that closet as well.

The Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is seeking a volunteer to help administer our Facebook page. Facebook is a vital (and inexpensive!) way to promote programs at UUFN.

Reminders:

To publish an article in the newsletter, send it to newsletter@uufn.org by the 15th of the month before you wish it to appear.

To have an item or announcement appear in UUpdate, send it to update@uufn.org by Wednesday of the week you wish it to appear.

The committee encourages all members and friends to take a few minutes to familiarize themselves with our website (uufn.org). It should help answer many of the questions you have about the fellowship. If you have suggestions about the website (uufn.org), please contact the committee at comm@uufn.org.

Circle Suppers are Back!

Circle Suppers (or this time also a Circle Brunch option!) are a great opportunity to get to have longer conversations with other UUFNers that never seem possible at coffee hour. Circle Suppers are hosted by a UUFNER who indicates how many people they can host for a meal (usually anywhere from 6 to 10). The host generally prepares the main course and other attendees bring side dishes, beverages, etc. The Fellowship Committee will do the group organizing and then the host communicates to the attendees about what to bring, etc.

This time we are looking to have a supper grouping families with kids, adults, and perhaps a lunch/brunch group for those who prefer an earlier event or who aren't available for a supper event.

Save the date - October 21st. Look for more information in the Order of Service, during coffee hour, or email [Rachael Coffey](mailto:Rachael.Coffey).

From the UUA and Delmarva Cluster

The UUA sends a monthly newsletter with lots of information for congregations and individuals. [Sign up here](#) to get on their mailing list.

2018 Mindful Journey to India!

Led by Minister Wayne Walder from the Neighbourhood U.U. Congregation of Toronto, our trips offer U.U.'s an opportunity to travel with like minded seekers.

This is an opportunity to travel with other U.U.'s and to enjoy the wonder and colors of India. Daily meditations and evening reflections help us to experience our travel more fully.

Please contact [Joan Walder](#) if you would like an itinerary of the trip and information about Mindful Journey's. Or [view our flyer](#).

Visit the uufn.org [Events page](#) to see a full list of upcoming public events

Events

Visit the uufn.org [Calendar](#) to find out about committee meetings and recurring events.

Pizza, Games, and Fellowship!

September 29

Looking for an easy way to get to know other UUFN people? Then join us for a newish thing - Last Friday Pizza, Games, and Fellowship (if anyone has a more catchy name please let us know!). Gather with games around 6 p.m. and we will order pizza for noshing around 6:30 (probable cost about \$1/slice). We will provide tea, lemonade, and water (BYOB - bring your own beverage if you'd like something else!). All ages are welcome! Contact Rachael Coffey if you have questions or would like to help setup/break down this event!

New Date!

Saturday October 7, 2017

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth Workshop

Learn about labyrinth creation and learn how to draw your own labyrinth. Then participate in creating a temporary outdoor Chartres-style labyrinth on the UUFN lawn. Included in this workshop will be morning refreshments and time for you to walk the labyrinth that we create. Please bring a bag lunch.

The cost for this workshop is \$20. Limited to 10 participants.

For more information or to register, contact Karen Barker.

Roy Zimmerman

Tuesday, October 10

7-9 p.m.

A cabaret event with Roy Zimmerman, UU singer/songwriter of satirical songs on current events. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. Suggested donation "\$20 or pay what you can."

Ukulele Group

Tuesday October 3, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - and every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month.

UUFN has a new ukelele group!

Sierra Club Environmental Justice Training program

September 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club is hosting an Environmental Justice training.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. Contact Rachel Coffey at rscnwkd@gmail.com

The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow

Monday, October 16

6-7 p.m.

The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow works in partnerships to help bring the community together to work for justice. The Coalition was established to create a society where all members of the community have a fair and equal opportunity for success.

UUFN's mission aligns perfectly with the Coalition's work for Racial Justice with a focus on eliminating mass incarceration. Rev. Paula Maiorano was one of the original founders of this active and engaged group.

Please join us!

Volunteer Sunday

October 15

Join us on Sunday, October 15 for Volunteer Sunday. We will be celebrating our many dedicated volunteers and providing the opportunity for everyone to learn how the UUFN is run by our fantastic volunteers. Each committee will have a table that explains what they do and how volunteers can help with the work they do for the UUFN. Learn how different committees work together and what new and exciting ways you can contribute to the health and well-being of the UUFN. Contact Rachael Coffey, Pat Field, or Kay Elizabeth for more information.

March for Racial Justice and Compassion

Saturday, October 28

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

March and rally in support of racial justice. At George Wilson Center on New London Road, Newark.

Labyrinth-Making workshop

Saturday, October 7

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Learn about labyrinth creation and learn how to draw your own labyrinth. Then participate in creating a temporary outdoor Chartres-style labyrinth on the UUFN lawn. Included in this workshop will be morning refreshments and time for you to walk the labyrinth that we create.

Please bring a bag lunch.

The cost for this workshop is \$20. Limited to 12 participants.

Sign up at coffee hour on Sept 24 & Oct 1

For more information, contact Karen Barker.

Samhain Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, October 29

7-9:30 p.m.

Samhain (pronounced SAH-win) is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year.

Join your friends at UUFN for a candle-lit evening labyrinth walk in MacKinnon Hall to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of winter.



Roots & Shoots Day!

Sunday, October 29

Nothing says "Fall is here" like the annual City of Newark Halloween Parade! The Roots & Shoots class will be joining in the parade flying our peace doves. All UUFNers are encouraged to join in the parade and help us fly down Main Street on Sunday 10/29.

This year we will also be getting in the Halloween spirit with our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat event on parade day. Join in the fun by parking in the UUFN lot and decorating your trunk with fun Halloween decorations and yummy treats to share.

The Trunk or Treat is being sponsored by the Roots & Shoots class and teachers and will start shortly after the end of the service. We will be providing warm soup with bread to kick off the afternoon.

The Roots & Shoots class will be doing the Inter-generational Service that day so feel free to come in costume to join in the fun and spirituality!

Please contact Rachael Coffey or any R&S teacher for more information.

• Save the Dates! UUFN [Social Justice](#) Events in October

- Social Justice Committee monthly meeting: Sunday, October 8, 11:30 a.m., Olympia Brown Room. Contact: socialjustice@uufn.org
- Jewelry Sale to benefit Hope Dining Room: Sunday, October 22, after service in MacKinnon Hall. Contact: socialjustice@uufn.org
- Hope Dining Room lunch service: Thursday, October 26. Off-site. Contact: hopediningroom@uufn.org
- March for Racial Justice and Compassion: Saturday, October 28, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Off-site at the George Wilson Center on New London Road. Contact: socialjustice@uufn.org
- Halloween Bingo: Sunday, October 29, 6:00 p.m. Off-site in Wilmington. Benefits AIDS Delaware. Purchase tickets in advance on the AIDS Delaware website, and then join the UUFN crew at the event. Contact: socialjustice@uufn.org

Looking back on September, your UUFN Social Justice Committee co-sponsored two events at UUFN for Peace Week Delaware 2017. On September 18th, Professor Saleem Ali spoke about peacemaking in West Asia. On September 20, we enjoyed a lovely program featuring the poetry of Rumi. As I am writing this, these two events have not yet occurred, but this is the second year UUFN has participated in Peace Week Delaware. Also, on September 30, we co-hosted with Sierra Club an Environmental Justice workshop. On September 23, co-chair Donna Shand attended a Racial Justice Gathering for the Delmarva Cluster, in Easton.

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