

CONNECTIONS

February 2018

From Our Pastoral Care Minister

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Athey
Jan Arenson
Rachel Coffey
Kay Elizabeth
Pat Field
Peter Hartranft
Lois Hoffman
Merry Ostheimer
Jeff Ramberg
Glen Schmiesing

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President	2
RE Updates	2
Sunday Services	3
Share the Plate.....	3
Committee Updates and Announcements.....	3
Events	5

All over the country UU people are celebrating 30 days of “Siding with Love” (formerly Standing on the Side of Love) from Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday through Valentine’s Day.

While “Siding with Love” is a year around effort, these 30 days are set aside for intentionality of observances of love.

There are so many aspects to the word love. On Valentine’s Day we usually celebrate romantic love, friendship, and love of family.

I believe our focus with the “Siding with Love” campaign is more about transforming love. By this I mean the love that changes everything.

February is also African American History month. We know that MLK Jr’s love was for the promise of a holistic people and society, where everyone was a full and equal citizen of the United States. We also know that his love was so powerful that he worked for his vision even in the face of death.

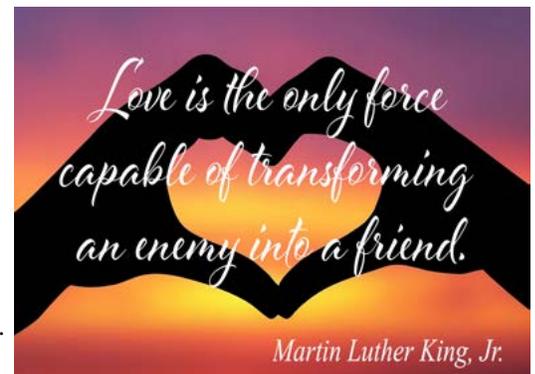
We, more ordinary people, may not want to choose martyrdom, but let us be called by the life and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. to advance a love which transforms.

Let us show up in ways that go beyond our usual limits. Let us learn more, become more aware, act for racial alliances and justice, and in all ways let it be known that we believe in the Promised Land, where all people share in the grace and bounty that today are reserved for only some people.

As we recently sang with Hymn # 121, *Let us build a land where we bind up the broken, where the captives go free, where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning, and believe that a promised land can be.*

May all be well with you,

Rev Paula Maiorano



To be removed from UUFN mailing lists, please click on the unsubscribe link on [Congregation Builder](#)

or email a request to:
officeadmin@uufn.org

Letter from the President

I am looking at my article for the January Connections, and its not completely obsolete. But parts of it are. Things have been changing so quickly at the Fellowship that it is hard to stay ahead of events.

The Stewardship Campaign

I will have more to say on this subject next month, and hopefully I will know more! Right now, we do not have a chair for the committee. Nevertheless, the Board and Rev. Paula decided to kick off the annual campaign around March 1st. It has to go forward. Yes, I know that I had been talking about a January or mid-February start, but that was then.

I have not actually heard anyone say that we can all ease up on our giving this year; however, on several occasions I have heard members remark that the Fellowship is flush with cash. Even if we end this church year in the black, we need to have a “cushion” of funds to get us through the lean income months, like summer. We also need to replenish our coffers to make up for those years of deficit budgets, or no money for capital expenditures (large expenses such as repaving the driveway).

Besides, the stewardship campaign will be focused on fulfilling next year’s budget, not this year’s.

The master plan is for the Finance Committee and the Board to roll out a draft budget for the next church year in time for the stewardship campaign, so that members can see where leadership plans to spend their pledge dollars. Budget drafting will begin very soon. I am confident that we will not have a “surplus funds” problem. Already, the Board can see demand for increased spending, coming from multiple sources/directions. For example, it is clear to me that we are going to have to spend more than we have in the past to manage or maintain our property. Also, we have gone for most of this past year without a Director of Religious Education. While that has saved considerable money, it may be unrealistic to expect that to continue — we may have to get back to some kind of paid RE staff person for next year. Recognizing that we have received enormous amounts of help from the UUA staff this past year, we need to restore our full share of association dues. Committees could probably use more money. We need to build up funds to address infrastructure needs. I heard the figure of about \$100,000 in deferred maintenance needing to be performed. That cannot be deferred for much longer.

No, we will not have a surplus funds problem in next year’s budget.

In fellowship,

Jeff

Religious Education

This month the RE Committee, along with the teachers and children in the RE program, will be presenting a service, Connection, Gratitude, and FUN! Join us to celebrate our teachers and children and find out what the fun is all about!

Our Chalice Children continue to thrive in our nurturing space, playing together and practicing our chalice lighting words.

The elementary Roots and Shoots class, after discussion of various animals and their needs, have decided to focus on birds. They will be exploring ways to help the birds in our community and may take a field trip to Tri-State bird rescue.

In February, the Coming-of-Age class will be focusing on UU history/herstory in preparation for their upcoming Boston Pilgrimage. They will also be preparing their “secret talents” to amaze and entertain you during their fundraising dinner theater production on March 10th.

The youth group continues to meet each week for games and fellowship in addition to their monthly chalice circles.



UUFN Sunday Services

February 4—What Worship Means To Us:

Our UU members often ask some variation of the question, “Why do we call our Sunday service worship if professing the same belief in God is not the central uniting principle of our faith?” This service is by way of response to what is actually a very important question.. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano.

February 11—Connection, Gratitude and FUN

The RE Program—committee, teachers and children—will be sharing our joy of learning together and being together with our beloved congregation. Join us for a morning of connection as we celebrate our religious education teachers and spend time remembering what's really important. The service will be followed by a luncheon for RE families.

February 14—Lessons in Right Relationship From a Horse

Relationships are hard. We disappoint, we misunderstand, and sometime we outright betray one another. And yet we have committed to being in community with others by committing to a fellowship. So how can we work through the struggles that come from being in community while remaining in right relationship with one another? Join credentialed religious educator and professional horse trainer, Sarah Gonzalez, as she shares what lessons she has learned about right relationship from her horse.

February 25—Theology Wars, Episode III, Humanism (John Dietrich)

This episode covers events, which took place decades, long, long ago in America in states far away. We Unitarian Universalists are people of many beliefs and backgrounds, people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be. Has it always been so? What effect did John Dietrich have? Presented by Glen Schmiesing.

February Share the Plate YWCA Delaware

YWCA Delaware leads social change, empowers women, girls and their families and advances our mission by offering programs in the five key areas of Economic Empowerment, Housing, Racial Justice, Sexual Assault Crisis and Youth Development.



YWCA Delaware will use the UUFN donation to help re-launch Dialogue to Action groups, where small, racially diverse study groups use curriculums from EverydayDemocracy to explore race and racism, and plan actions to challenge racism. Donations will also support existing programming to respond to acts of hate in New Castle County and to expand the capacity of the DE Racial Justice Collaborative.

Committee Updates and Announcements

Do You Need a Helping Hand?

We are here for you. The Helping Hands Committee is an arm of UUFN's pastoral care ministry and provides direct services to members of our congregation during times of crisis or acute need, such as illness, convalescence, or loss. We can prepare and deliver meals, provide transportation to the doctor or hospital, run errands like grocery shopping or picking up medication, provide emergency respite or child care, visit in the hospital or at home, make calls to those who are ill or housebound; keep the congregation apprised about emergency needs, and identify resources for longer term care or assistance.

Helping Hands also organizes the receptions following memorial services, assisting with setup and providing light refreshments.

Formerly known as the Caring Committee, Helping Hands works closely with the Pastoral Care Committee to ensure that the members of our community receive both the compassionate and practical support they need during difficult times. Liz Carlisle has just assumed the role of chair. If you or someone you know has a need or in the near future, such as a scheduled surgery, call Liz or send an e-mail to helpinghands@uufn.org.

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee holds their regular monthly meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:30 in the Olympia Brown Lounge. They coordinate the Share The Plate program which gives 1/2 of all money collected at our Sunday service to mostly local charitable organizations. They also serve at Newark's Hope Dining Room on the 4th Thursday of the month 11 months each year. Contact hopediningroom@uufn.org if you would like to participate.

During the cold winter months, the Social Justice Committee's Code Purple sub-committee hosts the homeless overnight. This is life saving work. During the months of December and January, we hosted twice. On December 14, we hosted 11 people, and on January 5, we hosted 22 people. If you would like to help save a life, please connect with codepurple@uufn.org

The Social Justice Committee also endeavors to host forums on current policy issues. On January 6, UUFN and UUDAN co-sponsored a Grassroots Policy Forum. The morning featured speakers on Criminal Justice Reform, the afternoon focused on Environmental Justice. This coming April, we are co-sponsoring a Job Fair event for adults with Down Syndrome. Plans are progressing on an anti-racism workshop in March or April. And there is the possibility of an event celebrating Immigrant Heritage Month in June that will involve delicious food.

Please consider helping out with one or two of these events. We would especially love to have 2 or 3 people volunteer to learn the sound system so that you might help with an event if your time permits. If that interests you please reach out to socialjustice@uufn.org.

If you can not help with the events we really hope you will at least make your best effort to show up. Come and listen. Learn something new. Ask some questions. The speakers for these events are giving their time and talent and we'd like them to know it's worth their effort.

More Chances to Discuss the Bylaws Review!

As you all hopefully know by now the Bylaws Review Committee has been working for over a year now to update the Bylaws. We have discussed this at multiple Congregational Meetings. As suggested at the last Congregational Meeting, the Board of Directors will be drafting policies (in consultation with committees) to replace much of the materials removed from the Bylaws. Transferring Bylaws to Policies gives us more flexibility to change with the times—it is easier for the board to vote on a policy change than it is to change a Bylaw.

Theodore Parker Meditation Room

On January 14 during the service we dedicated the Theodore Parker Meditation Room.

Here is how this came about:

When we were having group meetings with the Regional Executive Rev. David Pyle, this summer, it came up that it would be nice to have a Sacred space that would always be there for people to go for solace.

Zen Meditation had moved into Theodore Parker due to Fellowship Hall being closed (due to a mold problem).

RE still uses the space every Sunday. The room is still used to rent to the greater Newark Community. The Democrats meet there once a month and a Yoga group is renting it on Mondays. The room seemed to be calling to us to use in an intentional way.

Zen liked the idea and helped with the organizing of what it might look like. Rev Paula agreed that it should be intentionally dedicated for the purpose of a Sacred Space.

Theodore Parker (whom the room was named after) was an American Transcendentalist and reforming Unitarian Minister. Parker wrote of the world as Divine, and of people being part of this divinity. He was an avid abolitionist, which made this Dedication on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend very appropriate.

Come use the room to meditate or for reflection, for journaling, to practice Yoga or Tai Chi or to just light the chalice and feel the love.

If you use the room for another purpose, that is fine; just return the room to its original set up.

Welcome to the Theodore Parker Meditation Room at the UUFN.

Peace and Love.

We Want and Need Your Input on these updates and policies. One tenet of our Covenant of Right Relations is to **stay informed**. So please join us in one of the upcoming discussion meetings.

Your opportunity to learn more and participate are coming up. Please join us on **Sunday, February 11 at 11:30 a.m.** for discussion about the proposed changes. We will be holding a special Congregational Meeting for final discussion and voting on the Bylaws updates on **Sunday, March 18 at 11:30 a.m.**

Please contact any of the Bylaws Review Team for more information. Rachael Coffey, Theda Ellis, Gary Jackoway, or Glen Schmiesing.

Events

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

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

UU 101

Saturday, February 24

9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship? Would you like an occasion to get to know Rev. Paula better and make connections with other UUFN folks? Well, we have a class for you!

UU 101 is an opportunity to gather for information and community. We will learn about Unitarian and Universalist roots; UU principles and theology; the history of UUFN, its programs and structure; and the privileges and responsibilities of membership. All are welcome, whether you are new to the Fellowship or have been around for decades.

There will also be time to socialize and a light lunch will be provided. Childcare may be available but **MUST** be arranged in advance. To register or if you have any questions please contact Diana Guinnup at membership@uufn.org or 302-328-8111. For childcare contact Andrea Harding at andrea4620@hotmail.com or 302-994-4741 **before** February 17.

RE Family Luncheon

Join us after the RE Service on February 11 for an RE Family Luncheon. This is an opportunity for families to connect and get to know each other as well as a continuation of our service celebration. Please RSVP to andrea4620@hotmail.com for food planning purposes, but if you decide to stay at the last minute, no worries, we'd love to have you!

Young Adults

Saturday, February 17

6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Are you 18-32 and looking to connect with others? Our young adult group meets for supper and conversation every month. Join us in MacKinnon Hall for food and fellowship.

Save the date for the
UUFN

Dinner Theater!!

Saturday, March 10

Relax and enjoy yourself at an entertaining Italian dinner theater. Our Coming of Age (7th and 8th grade) class will be fundraising for their biannual Boston Pilgrimage.

This trip is a UUFN tradition — a culmination of the COA class studies. It provides an opportunity for our youth to visit historical UU sites and learn more about our heritage. But we need your help! The class is counting on the attendance of the greater Fellowship in addition to their families and friends. Put aside this evening for food, fun and fellowship and support our COA class as well!



Coming soon ...

One form to inform them all

The Communications Committee is in the final stages of creating a single event/article form for submissions to the Sunday Order of Service, weekly UUpdate and monthly Connections newsletter.

This streamlined process will make it easier for everyone to get the word out about their events and projects! In the meantime, keep sending submissions to update@uufn.com, newsletter@uufn.com and officeadmin@uufn.com.

Monthly Meetings

Recurring committee meetings and social gatherings are a great way to stay involved throughout the month. Some groups are more structured than others, so if you're new, please check the [calendar](#) or reach out to the organizer to confirm dates and times!

[Wednesday Coffee Group](#).....Every Wednesday, Panera Bread on Main Street, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

[Zen Meditation](#)Every Wednesday, 6:30–8:15 p.m.

[Women's Spirituality](#).....2nd Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

[UUFN Board Meeting](#)2nd Wednesday, 6:45–9:00 p.m.

[Social Justice Committee Meeting](#)2nd Sunday, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

[Ladies Lunch Bunch](#)..... Usually 3rd Tuesday of the Month, time and location vary

[Communications Committee Meeting](#)....3rd Thursday, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

[Hope Dining Room](#).....4th Thursday, Kingswood United Methodist Church, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

[Friday Game Night](#).....4th Friday, 6:00–9:00 p.m.



WANTED! EVERYONE IN UUFN!
FREE PHOTO! FREE PHOTO DIRECTORY!
Do you know the name of the person next to you?
Save the date! March 29, 30, 31

Our new Photo Directory is an opportunity for all of us to put faces with names. And it's **FREE!** Have your picture taken, and you get a **FREE 8x10 AND UUFN Photo Directory.** That's ALL you have to do!

Shooting dates are **Thursday, March 29 (1:30 - 9), Friday, March 30 (1:30 - 9), and Saturday, March 31, (9:30 - 5) in MacKinnon Hall.** Reservations can be made online or at Coffee Hour.

Beyond that it's your choice, but NOT a requirement, to buy other photo packages. * Price sheets will be available **BEFORE** your photo session * 20% off for anyone 60+ years of age * 20% off for military or first responders * **PETS WELCOME** * Extended families welcome * **Props welcome** (family heirlooms, Russian samovars, great grandma's portrait) * Plan ahead for **YOUUR** photo session! For more information contact photodirectory@uufn.org. Let's have 100% participation!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark
420 Willa Road
Newark, Delaware 19711
uufn.org

