

CONNECTIONS

Summer 2018

Message from Our Minister

A Personal Expression of Thanks

It is with appreciation and celebration that I look forward to journeying another year with you.

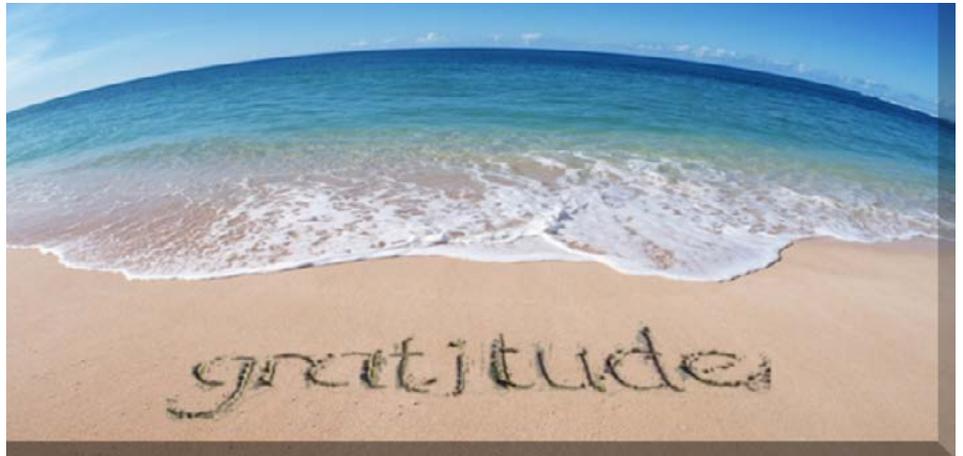
I have grown in new dimensions of understanding in the time I spent with you this past year — understanding of the roles resiliency and determination play in the commitment to continue the mission and vision of a community central to your lives, despite obstacles placed in its way — understanding the depths of kinship you feel for members and friends and visitors to your spiritual home.

I found your lay led services to be important and with themes central to a life well lived. And I have laughed and cried on many occasions as the minister participant in your religious community.

From what I have heard back from you, there is a sense that I also contributed to the well-being and dynamism that is UUFN. For this, I am so glad, because I want to effectively serve in ways that affirm and promote your mission and vision.

Together, we share a ministry that is healing and life-giving. I am thankful for this past year and look to the coming year for even more understanding of life as it is lived in relationship with the members and friends of UUFN.

With deep affection,
Rev Paula Maiorano



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2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As voted on at the Congregational Meeting, the new Board begins it's term in July:

Karen Barker, president
Jeff Ramberg, past-president
Carol Boncelet, president-elect
David Athey, treasurer
Merry Ostheimer, secretary
Pat Field, program coordinator
Jan Arenson, member-at-large "Our Community"
Kay Elizabeth, member-at-large "Our Compassion"
Lois Hoffman, member-at-large "Our Spirit"
Glen Schmiesing, member-at-large "Our Future"

President's Message

This is my last column as the UUFN president. I thought that I was going to have momentous words, but it looks like I will end my term in office discussing the UUFN parking lot.

I have many folks to thank in helping me in my year as president. For starters, I would like to thank you as readers for reading my articles. You have probably noticed that my writings tend to be very Board-centric. That's no accident. I gravitate toward writing about things I know, and Board goings-on is what I know.

New RE Coordinator

Congratulations to our new RE Coordinator, Andrea Harding! Andrea was one of our co-chairs of the RE Committee last year, along with Karen Barker. Somehow they kept RE running smoothly, despite the fact that we were without a paid RE staffer for practically the entire church year.

New day care lease

I recently signed a 5-year lease renewal with the Willa Road Children's Center. We still have ongoing work to do to improve our communications with each other to reduce misunderstandings and hard feelings, but the agreement has the potential to be mutually beneficial. Peter Hartranft and Jan Arenson can take well-deserved credit for making it happen.

Unique volunteer opportunities next year

I want to bring to your attention a number of special projects that will need volunteer staffing. Things are still sort of nebulous on several fronts; for example, I do not know whether some of the projects will be performed by committees or task forces, or some other group. But whereas committee work is ongoing, these projects are some that could be performed in a year. I begin this list of projects (in no particular order) with a number of property-related questions, including "what is the long-term future of our

campus?" These questions will involve some research, followed by informal congregational discussions. Separately, we need to search for and hire a new contract employee minister before August 2019. In addition, a new task force will continue working on the section of our bylaws dealing with minister-congregation relations. They will also work with the Board and committees in developing policies. Send an email to president@uufn.org if any of these interest you. I cannot guarantee you a slot, and I suspect that the ministerial search will be very popular. Also, populating that particular task force will be a Board decision, and some slots may go to representatives from the Board, and Personnel and Worship committees.

Parking lot

We disagree on many things, but one point of agreement is that parking lot re-paving should be the big project that we attend to first, among our list of large-scale "repair or replace" projects. Finance Committee has said that, as long as the project cost does not exceed about \$30,000, we can pay for it with existing and budgeted funds. Already bids are coming in, thanks to our Leidy Di. It's very exciting, and very real! But two of the bids are well north of \$30K, which is kind of scary. If we want to accept one of these, we will have to figure out how to finance the project. The first bid was well below \$30K, but looks too good to be true. Hopefully, the fog in our crystal ball will soon dissipate, as we would like to tackle this project before this calendar year is out.

In closing, I would like to thank Rev. Paula, my board, Rev. David Pyle, and basically anyone and everyone who gave me advice or assistance this past year. And thank you for all that you do! You are the folks who actually make UUFN run!

In fellowship,
Jeff

June Share the Plate: Mom's House Wilmington

Mom's House Wilmington is a unique program offering quality early childhood education in a nurturing environment. The program allows single parents to pursue their education, empowering them to become confident and productive members of the community. The program assists low-income single parents in their journey to continue on with their education by providing a free, quality early education center for their children while they go to school. There is no other program in Delaware that offers this service. They strive to help the family entity through numerous programs offered at Mom's House Wilmington. To their families they offer tutoring, counseling, mentoring, and parenting classes. To the children they offer love, a safe haven to explore, nutritious meals, and hands on learning experience. Mom's House is a product of compassionate teachers and volunteers who commit themselves to every parent and child that walks through their doors. The love and resources they bring with them are the components that have kept Mom's House Wilmington operating for the past 16 years. They are committed to helping single parents complete their education, becoming confident, self-sufficient members of the community.



UUFN Sunday Services



Summer is an slower time at the UUFN, but Sunday services continue. Please check the weekly UUpdate or the website for updated information about Sunday services.

June 3 — Coming of Age

Students from the Coming of Age class read their credos.

June 10 — Celebrating Volunteerism

Voluntarism and volunteerism are connected but different. This service recognizes the importance of voluntarism in a democratic society, as articulated by UU giant James Luther Adams, and celebrates the ongoing and priceless services of our many UUFN volunteers, without which the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark could not exist. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano.

June 17— Conflict of Values

How do you handle situations where your personal values are in conflict with each other, or in conflict with the values of others? Gary Jackoway and Nancy Plummer will lead a discussion of this timely topic.

June 24 — TBA

July 1 — A Reflection on the Annual Gathering

At the end of June, Rev Maiorano participated in this year’s Ministry Days and General Assembly. The service weaves together the themes of these two gatherings in a way she believes will resonate most deeply in our lives.

July 8 — The Language of Reverence, the Rhetoric of Peace

Language is especially important in a spiritually pluralistic community, holding people with different beliefs together in a peaceful community of respect and awe for life. This service reflects on the language that transcends differences and clarifies that which is of ultimate importance to all.

July 15 — TBA

July 22 — TBA

July 29 — TBA

August 5 — Lammas–The First Harvest

Join us as we celebrate Lammas/Lughnasadh in the Earth-based wheel of the year. Be inspired with readings, singing and drumming as we express gratitude for our harvest and our blessings. Presented by Nancy Plummer and Karen Barker

August 12 — TBA

August 19 — Play as a Spiritual Practice

Service for all ages followed by an all-fellowship picnic. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano.

August 26 — Are You Too Busy for a Spiritual Life?

The UUFN is a community of spiritual seekers inspired to promote a just and compassionate world. Yet, at critical times in our lives, we’re so busy we hardly know whether we’re coming or going. Today’s service offers a reflection on the inherent push and pull of our active life with our inner spiritual world and ways to balance both. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano.

Religious Education

Bring a Friend to UUFN

Our Religious Education focus for the remainder of this calendar year will be to welcome returning and new adults and children to the UUFN. Representatives from worship, communication, social justice, and membership committees, as well as the board and our minister, have joined with RE to create a task force for growth. Our first initiative is to offer a late summer “sampler” of services, events, and activities geared for families. Please plan to join us (and bring your friends) as we invite the community for the following late summer and early fall events.

- Sunday, August 19: Play as a Spiritual Practice (Service for all Ages) This will be followed by an all-Fellowship picnic
- Sunday, August 26: Take Apart Party for children during service for adults. Contributions of computers to be recycled are welcome for the take apart party. Last year’s party was an amazing combination of fun and learning.
- Sunday, September 9: Ingathering Water Communion (Service for All Ages)
- Sunday, September 16: First Day of Religious Education
- September 15 -23: Peace Week Delaware – look for activities being held in conjunction with other organizations at UUFN this week
- Sunday, September 23: Our Peace Sunday Service for All Ages will be in the Peace Week brochure. We will fly our Peace Doves and the service will be followed by a reception with crafts for the children centered around peace.

Committee Updates and Announcements

UUFN Social Justice Committee News

UUFN’s [Social Justice Committee](#) meets on the second Sunday of each month. We hope every UUFN member will find their own way to promote a just and compassionate world, and all members are encouraged to attend the meetings. You are welcome to just observe or to participate more fully by commenting and voting or perhaps even by choosing a project to help out with. All are welcome! If you have a project in mind the committee would love to hear about that as well. This Spring the SJ Committee has been very busy.

In April the committee arranged for a collection of donations for [Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism \(BLUU\)](#). They co-sponsored a Down Syndrome employment conference and hosted a Community/Police Conversation with the [Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, Delaware United](#) and UUFN also co-sponsored a “[Letter to the Editor](#)” training session. The “Share the Plate” recipient for April was a Delaware program called “[Healthy Food for Healthy Kids](#).”

May was also very busy. “[No More Deaths](#)” was the “[Share the Plate](#)” recipient. UUFN’s Welcoming Congregation group co-sponsored a well attended and inspiring transgender awareness event called “[Transforming My Family with Joan Rater](#).” And a Candidate Forum was held for Attorney General and State Auditor candidates. The [Green Sanctuary Team](#) organized a

collection of [styrofoam for recycling](#).

UUFN Hosted at [Hope Dining Room](#) in both April and May. A huge thank you goes out to Janet Louise and her team for coordinating that monthly effort. Summer is coming! That means that many of the regular Hope Dining Room volunteers may be away on vacation so extra help will be needed. If you can help please contact Janet Louise. Ironically when volunteers like to holiday is also when the Dining Room is the busiest, because school is out and children are in need.

Upcoming events include our [Ethnic Cultural Heritage Celebration](#) on June 16th and [Peace Week](#) in mid-September. Find out more at our next meeting on June 10th at 11:30.



Hospitality

Looking for a way to deepen your faith while serving others? Consider joining a Hospitality Team to help with our UU Coffee Hour. It's a great way to meet people. And, we are fun, too!

We are currently in most need of volunteers for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

For more information contact Dave Guinnup or visit <http://uufn.org/connection/hospitality-committee-coffee-hour/>

Green Sanctuary

In June, GO-Electronic: Bring old electronics for recycle to UUFN on Sunday and we will take it to the electronic recycle center on Lambson Lane. Please let Kip King know if you have LARGE flat screen TVs, they take a bit more space to transport.

The next Newark Saturday collection is: Saturday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. University of Delaware STAR Campus, 550 S. College Avenue, Newark

UU101

If you are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship you will want to attend the UU 101 class to be conducted by Rev. Paula Maiorano and the Membership Committee this Fall. Keep your eyes peeled for the date which will be announced in the September newsletter.

"Passing the Torch: Leadership Development in Your Congregation."

This free online course has five modules that you complete at your own pace. No charge, but you must be a registered participant on the UU Leadership Institute website at <https://www.uuinstitute.org/courses/passing-the-torch>

Contact David Guinnup for more information.

2018 UUFN Service Auction

Bob & Michaels Broadway aUdition Results

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

We did it!

\$21,661

76 donors of 95 items

Practically Perfect in every way!

And now, an excerpt from the opening number by Tevye and the Pips:

If we all were rich ones,
Daidle deedle daidle
Digguh, digguh, deedle daidle dum
All day long we'd biddy-biddy-bum
If we were the wealthy ones.
We wouldn't have to raise funds,
Daidle deedle daidle
Digguh, digguh, deedle daidle dum
If we were a biddy biddy rich
Digguh, digguh, deedle daidle dum
We wouldn't need the auction to balance the budget or to pay the many bills
We would just write another check
We'd build a fine sanctuary filled with posh pews and stained glass windows all around

Oy! When you're dreaming, why not all the frills?

If we all were rich ones,
Daidle deedle daidle
Digguh, digguh, deedle daidle dum
All day long we'd biddy-biddy-bum
If we were the wealthy ones.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!



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.

One Form to Inform them All...

It is now easier to send information in for all UUFN platforms. Just fill out the form at <http://uufn.org/Willa/> to submit items for the Order of Service, UUpdate, Connections and the website.

Come One, Come All!

JUNE 10, 11:30 a.m.
(following Coffee Hour)

COA (Coming of Age Class), the UUFN Youth Group, and the Fellowship Committee are sponsoring an old-fashioned all Fellowship picnic to celebrate the end of the RE (Religious Exploration) Year and to kickoff summer!



We will provide hamburgers (including veggie alternatives), hot dogs, and the trimmings.

We'd like you to sign up to bring a side or dessert and to help us know how many to expect.

We ALSO need a few volunteers to help set up and bring extra chairs. (Folks really enjoyed lawn chairs on the grass at last September's picnic!)

Lastly, we have one propane grill, but we really need a second.

All the information is available on Signup.com where you can register what you plan to bring or how you plan to help. Click or copy and paste this link into your browser: <http://signup.com/go/jDgrSEi>

We had a GREAT time last fall; let's do it again!

Lavender Fields

Saturday, June 2

The UUFN Labyrinth Committee will be carpooling to Lavender Fields in Milton, Delaware on Saturday, June 2 to enjoy their annual Lavender Festival and walk their outdoor labyrinth. All are welcome! Contact the [Labyrinth Committee](#) for more information.



Ethnic & Culture Celebration

Saturday, June 16 11 a.m-4 p.m.

Travel the world in just one day!
Learn about other cultures and share your own! Family Fun, Dance, Music, Food, Crafts, Cultural Artifacts, Twin Poets. Volunteers needed contact Nina pumkenpy@aol.com





**Celebrate the Summer Solstice
Bear Medicine Drum Circle
Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m.
Bon Fire and S'mores to follow**

Family friendly, children welcome! Bring a drum, a few drums will be provided. Come participate in Bear Medicine drumming circle. Hear the calming rhythms and feel the soothing vibrations that our ancestors have used for millennia to provide healing for mind, body and soul! Bring a lawn chair, mosquito protection, and help us celebrate.



Led by Jody French, PsyD

Jodi is a clinical neuropsychologist and founder of Bear Medicine Drumming. Jodi "Two Bears" is a member of the Native American Church and traces her Native American ancestry to the Patowomeck Tribe of Virginia. She combines teachings of indigenous culture with drumming for powerful sound healing for mind-body wellness and holistic health. Dr. French has been practicing neuropsychology for over twenty years and has spent several years studying indigenous healing practices with two Cherokee metis medicine women and a shamanic practitioner. We look forward to Jodi's energies and skill to help us celebrate the Summer Solstice.

Newark Community Day Sunday, September 16, 11 a.m.-4 pm.

Visit the UUFN booth on the UD Green during Newark Community Day!

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.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark
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uufn.org

