

CONNECTIONS

September 2018

Message from Our Minister

A Brief Reflection on Peace



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This September as in years past UUFN is participating in Peace Week Delaware. Several of this year's programs are in the Peace Week booklet. These include a service for all ages on September 23, "Planting Peace," and a peace curriculum that our RE Director, Andrea Harding, created for younger children. We also are offering six weeks of Dialogues Across Racial Lines beginning September 18 (see page 7).

It was not until the 50s and 60s that Peace Education began. Now there are a plethora of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, unfortunately mostly at universities in the west. It would be great if these studies had taken off worldwide.

Today the negative and positive peace framework is the most widely used. While negative peace refers to the absence of direct violence, positive peace refers to the absence of indirect and [structural violence](#). Martin Luther King in the [Letter from a Birmingham Jail in 1953](#), wrote about "negative peace which is the absence of tension" and "positive peace which is the presence of justice." He may have been the first to so describe peace.

Mahatma Gandhi urged us to become the peace we want to see in the world. That is our work as Unitarian Universalists if we would implement our six Principle in our lives "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Sincerely,
Rev. Paula Maiorano

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UUFN Sunday Services



September 2 — We Are Made for Play

What does it mean to play as a spiritual act? How can we change our perceptions of work and leisure to embrace the importance of playing? Join us to explore playfulness and playing, and how to integrate more play into your life. Presented by Heather Petit

September 9 — Renewal

As we begin a new Fellowship year, our annual Water Communion will include a simple ceremony of renewal. Young people will be in the early part of service only. Rev. Maiorano will reflect on why our Water Communion is so important to we UUs.

September 16 —Silos of Discord Conflict of Values

The United States is on the verge of a new civil war. Not yet a shooting war, but just as during the lead-up to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumpter, Americans are divided into two camps, and constructive dialogue is scarce. Where are the peacemakers? Is there anyone or any group who can serve as an honest broker by listening respectfully to both sides and work to heal the rift? In his sermon, “Silos of Discord,” Doug Harrell makes the case that the practice of the Seven Principles equips UU’s to undertake the task of bridging the divide and restoring respectful discourse to our public sphere. Presented by Doug Harrell

September 23 — Planting Peace

Children, youth, and adults of all ages and beliefs join in song, story, and interactive worship, creating a Beloved Community in celebration of International Day of Peace, Peace Week Delaware, and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The service will conclude with a procession to plant a permanent Peace Pole in the UUFN gardens along Willa Road, Newark. A reception with crafts for children will follow. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano

September 30 — Toward Spiritual Maturity

An exploration of the adult stages of spiritual growth. Presented by Rev. Barbara Hebner

President's Message

Dear UUFN'ers,

I hope you have had restful, adventurous, relaxing, fun, and love-filled summers—pick your choice—one or all of the above! As your (fairly) new UUFN Board president, I also hope that your autumn and your year have all of these choices as well.

The Board has been hard at work on many things, but I think that we generally agree that the top items of business for the Board and for ALL of UUFN are

1. Continuing to nurture our beloved community by finding a new minister and living into financial sustainability, and
2. Working toward social justice

To these ends, we will be working on transparent and frequent communication and I invite you, actually I URGE you, to show up, speak up, share your ideas!! Please come speak to me any time.

Our Ministerial Search Task Force—pretty much, a dream team, I think!!—are Marie Laberge(chair), Gary Jackoway, Beverly Larock and Guat-Lian Kreamer. Thank you so much, team!!

Nancy Plummer and I led the worship service at UUFN on August 5 and our topic was Lammas, the Celtic, Earth-centered celebration of the first harvests of late summer. On that Sunday, I said:

This is the time to contemplate the seeds that we planted last year and what we have harvested this year. It is also a time to consider what we intend to plant this year to harvest in the next. Not only in the delicious goodies at the Farmer's Market, but also in our own lives, the cycle of planting and harvesting goes on. I just retired. I just moved to a new home. I just became president of the UUFN. How long ago were these seeds planted, and how will I nurture them as they grow? To be a tender nurturer requires patience, creativity, love, collaboration, and... did I say patience?? How will I be the best farmer I can be? How can we all be part of this process and this delicious harvest?

I invite you all to contemplate the seeds you have planted in your own life. Which have flourished and are there some that did not? What choices did you make that may have led to the harvest you have in your life today? How can you continue to nourish the things in your life that really matter so that your harvest is bursting with fullness?

May our harvest at UUFN be all that we wish for and may we collect and nurture the seeds we need and want so that our life together is one of peace, love, service, gratitude and joy.

In fellowship,
Karen Barker

Religious Education

Introducing our New RE Coordinator

Hello, my name is Andrea Harding and I have been a member of the Fellowship for almost 30 years. In the past I have served on the RE Committee and have taught many RE classes ranging from preschool through Coming of Age. I hold a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a master's in Human Resources Management and a Montessori Primary certificate. I was a Montessori preschool teacher for 22 years. I am excited to work with you and your children this year to grow our classes and explore some new programs. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your child or any ideas you have for RE. I can be reached at andrea4620@hotmail.com or 302-994-4741.

RE Happenings

After a successful Summer Sunday program, we are getting ready to start up the school year again. Welcome back to all of our returning and new RE Students. This year children under Kindergarten age will still be in the Chalice Children nursery with our wonderful, experienced, long term caregivers. Please give a shout out to these helpers when you see them, their year-round dedication provides consistency and stability for our youngest children.

Elementary Peace Curriculum – September 9–November 4

The purpose of this curriculum is to be proactive rather than reactive in the teaching of peaceful living to children. The curriculum strives to nurture responsible, self-aware, and independent thinkers who respect the needs of others and consider the wellbeing of the community as a whole. There will be a three-fold focus, exploring peace within yourself, peace with family and friends, and peace in the community. Activities will center on self-regulation, learning and choosing activities that help to calm the body and spirit. To this end, beginning on week two, every week will have a component where children are given half the class to practice various peace building activities such as movement, breathing, arts, and crafts that will give them outlets for their emotions and energy.

Additionally, each week will have a focus on the skills that make for a peaceful life; communication, cooperation, conflict resolution, empathy and civic engagement. The classes will culminate with the children's participation in a Service for All Ages on November 4.

These classes are being offered in conjunction with the [Delaware Peace Week](#) Project and are open to the public

Roots and Shoots Fundraising

Last year the Roots and Shoots classroom raised money for Puerto Rico through a bake sale and also sold bracelets in order to donate to an elephant rescue. Thank you to everyone who participated in these fundraising efforts. \$200 was donated to the UUA relief fund and \$200 was sent to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. The elephant trust is going to allow the kids to choose a elephant to sponsor.

OWL for 7 & 8th grade

In conjunction with the [New Ark United Church of Christ](#), we will be offering the [Our Whole Lives](#) program (OWL) for our 7th and 8th graders this year. The classes will be held at UCC on Main Street from 10:30-12:00. The first class will be on September 30. There is a mandatory parent/child meeting on September 9. This class is open to the public so if you feel your child would be more comfortable bringing a friend that is encouraged.

The OWL curriculum was written by UUA and UUC educators to form meaningful partnerships with parents to provide positive and responsible sexuality education. The program provides age-appropriate, accurate information on sexual health, human development, sexual behavior, relationships, and communication skills in a supportive setting.

Registration is required for this year-long program. Unfortunately, new students can not join the group after September 30.

YoUth GroUp

The YoUth GroUp will begin the year working with the Get Out the Vote campaign. They will also be assembling and delivering the go-bags that we supply to the Newark Empowerment Center 3 times a year. All of our YoUth GroUp advisors are returning with the addition of a new member so a big thank-you to them as well.

Committee Updates and Announcements

Stay Connected!

Have you ever wanted to call or email or mail a note to someone you met at UUFN? There are lots of reasons you might want to connect. Maybe you want someone new to hike with or to see a movie with? Maybe you'd like the name of the plumber they mentioned at coffee hour? Maybe you'd like to send a thank you note, or a get well card?

Did you know members have access to an online directory with members' addresses and phone numbers and emails?

CongregationBuilder.com is the website. Members can get the log in info from the membership committee. Membership@UUFN.org or see them at coffee hour.

Second Sunday Potlucks

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a monthly potluck on the second Sunday of each month starting on September 9. Please bring your contribution to the kitchen before service if possible. There will be reminder emails but no sign ups for items. As a UUFN friend reminded me once, "That's the fun of potluck — you might end up with all desserts — is that so bad?" Please do visit the Fellowship Committee table during Coffee Hour for volunteering to help for setup/clean up. Contact Rachael Coffey for more information.

Coatroom Cleanout

On Thursday, September 6, 2018, 1-3pm, the UUFN Coatroom will get a long overdue clean out. Winter clothing left last spring will be donated to Goodwill. Before then please take a look in the Coatroom and retrieve any items of yours that you wish to keep. Help is needed for this task. Please contact John Pesek (pesek@udel.edu) if you can help on 9/6/2018.

Long Range Planning Committee Update

Greetings! It is hard to believe the summer is over and we are starting up a new Church year!

I was informed by a member recently that many people do not believe that developing a long range plan is worth the effort because it just sits on a shelf and there is no accountability. I am sorry if this is a lingering perception. Let me be very clear about what we have done and where we are.

The Long Range Planning Committee developed a report which we released to the Board and the Congregation in September 2016. It included 5 recommendations for the first year. They were 1) to carry out a Visioning process which would help us discern where we wanted to be in 5 or 10 years, 2) To provide the congregation with significant Financial Education so that congregational members would understand our true financial status so informed decision could be made, 3) to Conduct a Congregational Composition Analysis to help inform our future planning, 4) to Enhance our Culture of Service to strengthen members and friends abilities to volunteer and serve at UUFN, and 5) to perform an assessment of the 2016-2017 Plan and make recommendations for the next year.

We did indeed complete a Visioning Process which provided us with important data about where we want to be as a Congregation, especially regarding Social Justice issues. The Board did an amazing and commendable job providing members with Financial information which led to us making some difficult decisions about our staffing and other expenses. The Congregational Composition Analysis was delayed until early in this year because of our changing population but we now have that data and will share it with the Board and the Congregation. The one area where we did not make any headway was with the Culture of Service because there was so much change happening in the Congregation it was hard to mobilize the energy.

As a result of those changes, there was most assuredly a down time in the work of the LRP. We lost several Committee members and have been slowly regrouping. Over the summer the LRP has again been meeting and we are working in several different areas to reconnect with different groups in the Congregation and develop a Long Range Plan for the next few years. This involves meeting with all significant committees and discussing what their plans are for the next few years, as well as working with the Board and leadership to ensure we have transparency and conversations about what they are doing. We believe communication is central to our effectively functioning and we are exploring the possibilities of bringing the program on Compassionate Communication to UUFN. We are looking forward to working with the Leadership Development Committee on the Culture of Service work that they have been exploring. It is a program that we were very attracted to three years ago but were unable to bring it forward. We will also be reviewing the Visioning work we did and doing some more work to clarify what are the Core Values for UUFN.

We want to thank all the Committees that have provided us with details about their plans for the coming years. We will be using the material from these committee reports as well as financial and strategic information from the Board to help develop plans for the next few years. If your committee has not yet had this conversation with the Long-Range Planning Committee, please feel free to contact us. The following are members of the LRP Committee: Marie Laberge, Chair, Rachael Coffey, Theda Ellis and Beth Rausch. Feel free to contact any of us with any questions you may have.

Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are back! Join in the fun of small group dinners that provide a great way to get to know other UUFNers. Ever feel like you would like a longer conversation with other UUFN people? Circle Suppers are an easy way to do just that. The Fellowship Committee /organizes Circle Suppers to facilitate conversations between newer and longer-time UUFNers. The Host provides the main dish and attendees bring sides, beverages, etc. The Fellowship Committee groups people and kicks off the correspondence then the host coordinates the items to make the meal – or you can go true potluck and be totally surprised at the outcome! The dates for Circle Suppers for this church year are October 13, January 9, March 17 (brunch!) and May 11. Please see the Fellowship Committee table during Coffee Hour to more information or to sign up. Contact Rachael Coffey for more information.

Women's Spirituality

The UUFN Women's Spirituality Group will start the year on September 11. We will gather at 6:30 pm for conversation and start at 7, meeting the second Tuesday of the month. For the first meeting we will spend some time planning for the year and then will do a Sound Meditation that Nancy collected when she was at SUUSI. Please consider a topic for a session you would be interested in sharing with the rest of the group and then come prepared to meditate.

Leadership Education Courses

Enroll now for Centered Leadership Part 1 (Starts 08/31/2018). This online course is provided by the UU Leadership Institute and is prerequisite for many other course (\$30).

Enroll at <https://www.uuinstitute.org/> For information on scholarships and other training opportunities and programs see Dave Guinnup, Chair, Leadership Development Committee at 302-328-8111 or Leadership@uufn.org.

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UUFN'ers Karen Barker and Catriona Binder-Macleod recently applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Fund for UU Social Responsibility to collaborate with the Delaware League of Women Voters in working with youth to Get Out the Vote in 2018. They will be educating and empowering not only our own yoUth groUp to help the public get information they need and register to vote, but also students from Newark High School, Newark Charter School and the University of Delaware. This will include promoting the League of Women Voters' fantastic new website, VOTE411. Check it out!

UUFN Welcoming Congregation Committee Members and Chair/Co-Chairs

The Unitarian Universalist Association is reinvigorating the Welcoming Congregation program (which addresses the needs and concerns of LGBTQ+ individuals in our congregations and wider communities), and UUFN will need to activate our Welcoming Congregation Committee.

For more information, please contact Donna Shand, Social Justice Committee Co-chair socialjustice@uufn.org

Book Bums

For further information, contact Udda at neershof@yahoo.com. (Discussion leader) in list below.

September 21 – New and Selected Poems/1992/by Mary Oliver (Barbara G)

October 19 – Strangers in Their Own Land by Arlie Russell Hochschild (Dana U)

Looking for a few good painters...room painters that is!

MacKinnon Hall walls are getting a facelift! Painting is planned for September 26-29 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 4 – 9pm and 9:00am until finished on Saturday). If you have a few hours and can help prep, paint trim, etc. Please let me know! Contact Rachael Coffey Fellowship@UUFN.org

RE needs You!

Do you have a skill or talent to share with our elementary class? This fall our Peace Curriculum will include a component to introduce children to absorbing self-calming techniques such as yoga, meditation, baking, or crafts. Almost any skill will qualify. Please be available for your choice of 3 weeks between September 16–October 28. Contact Andrea for more information: 302-994-4741 or andrea4620@hotmail.com

UUFN Code Purple Coordinator/ Co-Coordinators

UUFN participates every winter in Newark's Code Purple program. We provide shelter on bitterly cold nights to individuals and families who would otherwise be outside exposed to the elements. We do this in rotation with eight other area congregations. Our procedures are well established and we have a team of dedicated UUFNers and folks from the community who volunteer to make this happen. We need a coordinator to make sure our program runs smoothly.

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, September 29, 2018 – 9:30am – 1:00pm

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

[Newark Community Day](#)

Sunday, September 16, 11 am-4 pm.

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

Harvest Moon Potluck

Saturday, September 22, 5 pm,
MacKinnon Hall

Bring the Family!

This is the time of the Harvest Moon when we celebrate and give thanks for the bounty of the last harvest of the year. Join us for a farm-to-table potluck followed by a ritual celebration of the autumnal equinox.

Bring a dish to share, made, to the extent possible with locally sourced ingredients from your garden or a farmer's market.

Questions or to volunteer, contact Liz Carlisle at liz.carlisle1@gmail.com, 302-598-0984.

Building Community: What's In Your Toolbox?

Saturday, September 22, 9:30 am-4:00pm

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington DE 19803

Join other UU congregations in the Central East Region for a day of networking, learning, and connecting

- Learn how to use social media to advance your community
- Discover new ways to encourage volunteerism in your congregation
- Invigorate your church's social justice programs
- Find out about new requirements for Welcoming Congregations
- Get information about how the UUA makes decisions.

Lunch provided. All are welcome. Registration: For planning purposes, please register by September 17, at <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/building-community-wilmington-918>

\$10 registration fee requested (waivers available). Childcare available by RSVP only. Walk-ins welcome.

Alan Fox Lecture Series – Science and Religions

Dr. Alan Fox, philosophy professor at UD, will share his expertise, experience and energy with us as he discusses the fascinating and complicated relationship between Religion and Science. This is a 5-part series – the dates are 5 consecutive Thursday evenings:

October 4: A historical review of the relationship between science and religion and how this is reflected in contemporary society

October 11: Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and their relationship to Science.

October 18: Modern Physics and Samkhya.

October 25: Daoism and Science, and the Brain and Spirituality

November 1: Perspectives on Islam

His last series at UUFN was a community block-buster to an overflowing crowd! You won't want to miss this.

Dialogues for Change Across Racial Lines

Tuesdays, September 18-October 20, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Join the six-week multi-faith, multi-cultural “dialogue, learn, and act,” in small groups of eight to twelve diverse people, kicking off during Peace Week Delaware.

September 18, Tuesday – Session 1, Making Connections

Location: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark (UUFN), 420 Willa Road, Newark DE 19711

September 25, Tuesday – Session 2, Our Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds

Location: New Elizabeth AME Church, 250 Corporate Blvd, Newark, DE 19702

October 2, Tuesday – Session 3, Our Unequal Nation

Location: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark (UUFN), 420 Willa Road, Newark DE 19711

October 9, Tuesday – Session 4, Why Do Inequalities Exist?

Location: New Elizabeth AME Church, 250 Corporate Blvd, Newark, DE 19702

October 16, Tuesday – Session 5, Looking at Our Community

Location: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark (UUFN), 420 Willa Road, Newark DE 19711

October 23, Tuesday – Session 6, Moving to Action

Location: New Elizabeth AME Church, 250 Corporate Blvd, Newark, DE 19702

To Register: www.endnewjimcrowde.org or email Cami Seward at camiseward@gmail.org

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](#)4th Sunday, 9:15 a.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

420 Willa Road

Newark, Delaware 19711

uufn.org

