



UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* - APRIL 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2023/2024 Annual Pledge Campaign.....1	Leadership Development Says “Thanks”.....5
Sermons.....2	Welcome New Members..... 6
Message from Rev. Heather Rion Starr.....3	Committee News 7
Message from Paul Barnette & Board	Events..... 11
Highlights.....4	Contacts.....13

DREAM IT! DO IT!
ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN
IT WORKS WHEN WE DO IT TOGETHER.



March was a month of UUSD Dreaming and Doing. Our Annual Pledge Campaign is near completion. Members and friends have carefully considered their relationship with UUSD and what that means when making their annual financial pledge to support the work of this beloved community. Several members spoke to us from the heart about how they came to be part of this community, what aspects of the congregation are important to nourish, and why they keep coming back and diving in.

Deep Gratitude to All of You who have Pledged.
You made a Commitment to keep UUSD Strong.

Pledges make up the majority of our operating budget. Pledges support our programs, pay our great staff, and keep UUSD humming. To date, **75%** of our member households have pledged, along with **20** friends! We are **99.6%** to our goal of **\$345,860!** **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

If you have not had a chance to pledge, or are thinking about increasing your pledge a bit, there is still time!

**New or Increased Pledges are Welcome.
It Takes \$1088/day to Sustain UUSD.
Meeting our Goal for the Budget Means a Dynamic New Year for UUSD,
Programs and Spiritual Support for Members/Friends, and
Providing a Progressive Voice for Sussex County.**

**EVERY PLEDGE MATTERS.
DREAM IT! DO IT!**

HOW TO PLEDGE:

- Click the [online link](#), complete the form, and submit. And, it goes directly to the only Pledge Team member authorized to receive pledges (Marj Shannon).
- Print and complete a [paper form](#), scan it, and email it to pledge@UUSSD.org.
- Print and complete a [paper form](#) and mail it to UUSD, marked "Attention Marj Shannon" and "Private."
- Print and complete a [paper form](#) and hand it in an envelope directly to Marj Shannon.

APRIL SERMONS

Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m., "The Right Way to Right Speech," Rev. Heather Rion Starr: Drawing upon a Jewish folktale retold by Simms Taback, we will, all ages together, enact a memorable experience of Motke, the Fish Peddler. Along the way we will celebrate the joys and humanness of being a congregation of more than four generations, sharing in co-creating this community and this multigenerational service today.

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., "I'm Still Standing," Rev. Heather Rion Starr: The tendency to reject religious language from our past can eliminate words and concepts that are actually still quite meaningful and resonant in our larger culture. For example: Salvation. What can it mean to a 21st century Unitarian Universalist to be "saved?" Come join us this Easter Sunday to find out! All are welcome who are committed to respecting others of diverse beliefs, *and* there'll be an Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service.



Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m., "Road Conditions and Traffic Patterns," Guest Speaker Rev. Kimberley Debus: The journey, whatever it may be, and whomever we may be journeying with, isn't always easy. How we experience it depends on how we handle changing conditions, detours, and rough terrain. We'll explore what that means for our spiritual journeys as well as those we make collectively in our congregations.

Rev. Kimberley Debus is a community minister based in Takoma Park, Maryland. Her ministry inspires artful and art-filled faith. She consults with congregations and religious professionals throughout the denomination. She is joyfully affiliated with the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, and has previously served at the Church of the Larger Fellowship as well as congregations on Long Island and Key West.

Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m., “Appreciating our Interdependent Web of Existence,” John Sykes and the UUSD Earth Cares Team of Maggie McLaughlin and Margaret Keefe: What if climate change meant not doom, but abundance? In this reflection taken from author Rebecca Solnit, we will consider giving up things we are well rid of, from deadly emissions to nagging feelings of doom and complicity in destruction.

Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m., “Celebrating Trans Identity,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr: We are in a time of increasing (again) attacks across the country on transgender people of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Today we will reflect upon and celebrate transgender identity and ways that more of us can be stronger allies for our beloveds in the continual struggle for dignity and respect for all people.

REV. HEATHER RION STARR, MINISTER



Dear UUSD’rs,

“General Assembly” are not the two most exciting words in the English language; I recognize that. However, I’m here to tell you that taking in General Assembly, our annual, mid-June, national denominational conference, whether in-person or online, can be an inspiring and unexpectedly moving experience.

Having grown up Unitarian Universalist, I felt accustomed to being among a relatively small, seemingly-outlier group in our country’s faith landscape. So, showing up to my first General Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio in 2001 was incredible for me. I thought I wouldn’t know another soul among the thousands there, but I ran into people I *did* know and experienced them anew as leaders within the UU realm. I soaked in the breadth of interests, issues, and resources within our wide-ranging faith community, most of which I hadn’t known existed prior to entering the Exhibit Hall. I walked a canvas labyrinth for the first time, attended a UU youth-led worship service, and discovered that I, for one, find the business of our Association of congregations fascinating. I got to experience firsthand leaders in our shared faith who have now passed on and who I will forever remember for their vision, leadership, humor, and character. (We are nothing if not a faith *filled* with unique characters!) I began to discern that here was a much larger community than my little congregation (Mt. Airy’s UU Church of the Restoration at the time, just outside Philadelphia) that I could grow in for the rest of my days, continuing to meet new people, discovering new nuances, and finding new commonalities, fresh perspectives, and always more opportunities to connect, support, volunteer, and learn.

I have attended 19 General Assemblies since that one in Cleveland in 2001—12 in person and seven online. Being an off-site delegate has gotten more-and-more robust and since 2020 and the pandemic has also become the preferred way to participate for many hundreds (if not thousands) more UUs nationally and internationally. It’s also gotten vastly more affordable and accessible. If you can find any available time at all in your calendar from the afternoon of Wednesday, June 21 through the afternoon of Sunday, June 25, I urge you to sign up to soak it up: <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

The link for Adult Virtual (Online) Registration is <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.

Make a plan now for General Assembly 2023! Be inspired, get more connected, and open your heart to hear the stories of other Unitarian Universalists around the country and beyond. I’d love to hear what you take in!

In the meantime, happy summer planning whatever it is you are looking forward to. I always enjoy hearing from you, via whatever mode of communication you prefer. You can reach me best by e-mail, cell phone, text (ideally just for emergencies or scheduling logistics), first-class U.S. mail, or Facebook Messenger if you just have a quick question or comment. Let me know if there’s something you’d like to say or check-in about (or want to make

sure I am aware of). Don't ever hesitate to nudge me if you don't get a reply right away—sometimes I, too, just need to slow down and reconnect. May the shift into spring be nourishing for us all.

Warmly,



Video of Rev. Heather's 2022 Installation Service: On March 27, 2022, UUSD held the Installation Service for our fourth Settled Minister, Rev. Heather Rion Starr. We are coming up on the first anniversary of this important occasion, and Sue Brown and Alleane Taylor from the Communications Committee have put together a great video using photos from that eventful day. Go to the [Installation](#) page and scroll down to see the Installation of Rev. Heather Rion Starr: A Celebration of Our Shared Ministry. Below it is the actual livestream video of the Installation Service on March 27.

**PAUL BARNETTE, PRESIDENT, UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

March 1 Business Meeting



Review/Approve January Month End Financial Documents: Co-Finance Officer Kent Sprunger reported there has been a successful migration from Power Church to QuickBooks and Breeze. Phase I of the transition is complete. All data entry is now into the new systems. Breeze will manage all contributions and pledges. Later in the spring, Quick Books will have data interface with our banks; this will help with monthly reconciliations. Pledges for FY24 will be in Breeze.

January 2023 income is down, however, pledges year to date are at 73% paid. Expenses for the year are below budget at 53%. For the fiscal year, we are at +\$70,855, which is a healthy position. A motion to accept the January End of Month Financial Documents was moved and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Review Results of "Leadership Pledge Kickoff": Ron Schaeffer presented an update of the pledge results from UUSD leadership. Of 28 households, 23 have pledged to date, for a total of \$130,800. This is 38% of our pledge goal. It is expected that the remaining five leadership households will pledge before the formal campaign kickoff on March 5th. Mean pledging is up by 5%, and the median increase is up by 25%.

Phase II "Searching for the Future"/Stewardship for Us Update: Board President, Paul Barnette, stated that the weekend of July 28-30, 2023 is set with Mark Ewert. This weekend will be a grassroots-up approach, involving the full congregation in order to gather as much information as possible. The weekend will be facilitated by volunteers from the congregation, with simultaneous workshops taking place on Saturday, July 29.

Discussion of Governance Review Team's (GRT) Recommended Bylaws Revision (Version 11.2): The BOT discussed multiple recommended changes to Article VII, Version 11.2 of the Bylaws with the Governance Review Team led by Mac Goekler. It was agreed that due to time limitations, the review will continue at the next BOT Business Meeting on March 29. The review was stopped at paragraph 7.5. The Board was asked by President Paul Barnette to review the remainder of Article VII prior to the March 29 meeting and send recommended changes to the GRT.

March 14 Planning Meeting Sussex Preservation Coalition Request: Maggie McLaughlin and Jane Gruenebaum briefed the BOT on the mission of the coalition, which was formed approximately six-seven months ago. They are a 501(c)(3) and an all-volunteer organization. Their purpose is to stop destruction of forests

and wetlands in Sussex County, and to work for the enforcement of current county codes and ordinances. On Arbor Day, April 28, 2023, they will be launching a project, the “One Acorn Project,” for stronger enforcement to protect our water and woodlands. On Arbor Day, the coalition would like to plant a tree on UUSD property in memory of trees lost due to clear cutting in Sussex County due to development. Maggie McLaughlin is working with the Landscape Committee on this request.

The coalition inquired about the possibility of using UUSD property frontage and parking lot to hold a rally in the spring or fall of this year. The purpose of the rally is to bring public media and government attention to the coalition’s proposed tree ordinance draft to be proposed to Sussex County Council about the same time. The coalition would like to have space for a registration tent and several exhibits. The group also plans to march along Lewes Georgetown Hwy for approximately one-mile round trip. The Delaware State Police would be hired to ensure everyone’s safety, and the coalition would provide site clean-up as necessary. The coalition’s request will have to be forwarded to the Rental & Usage Committee.

Safer Congregation Committee’s Presentation of Proposal for Installation of Security Cameras: Ruth Lamothe, Committee Chair, briefed the BOT on the three proposals received for the purchase of security cameras for the outside of UUSD property. After careful review and comparison of the proposals, the committee recommended Alarm Engineering, a company that has served UUSD since 2015 with the installation and monitoring of our fire alarm system. They were the mid-range proposal (\$12,332); however, due to our eight-year relationship with the company and their known responsiveness and professionalism, the committee recommended that Alarm Engineering be hired. The scope of the project will be for the installation of 10 outdoor cameras with multi-tier phasing for the future. Signs will be posted on the property. After monthly costs (after the one-year period) were clarified by Ruth Lamothe, a motion to accept Alarm Engineering’s proposal was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of “Searching for the Future” Weekend: Board President, Paul Barnette, stated that two volunteers will be needed to “Train the Trainer” for the weekend of July 28-30. We will also need someone to serve as point of contact. The estimated cost for Phase II is \$5,000 plus meals and travel expenses, which will come out of the restricted fund. Rev. Heather raised the question, “**What tool will be used for input from out-of-town members and those who cannot physically be able to attend in person?**” The purpose of Phase II is to engage the entire congregation. We need to include everyone in this important weekend. This issue will require further discussion. After some discussion, the motion was proposed and seconded to allow the Board President to sign the contract and the Co-Finance Officer to send the check to Mark Ewert. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion of Potential Dates for Candidate Forum: The Leadership Development Committee proposed “Lunch with the Candidates” for Sunday, April 16 after the service. The Candidate Forum will take place on Thursday, May 25 via Zoom.

The BOT Planning Meeting takes place on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and is a hybrid meeting. The BOT Business Meeting takes place on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact Richard Wheeler or Paul Barnette for the Zoom link.

See you in church! Paul Barnette, Board President

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Enriched by our diversity, we seek connections with everyone, regardless of race, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, whom you love, or any other human characteristic.

THANK YOU TO THE SELF-NOMINEES

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) would like to thank the dedicated members who have submitted their self-nomination forms for positions on the Board of Trustees or the Leadership Development Committee. The self-nomination period officially closed on March 31. We are encouraged that so many wonderful people self-nominated and have graciously offered their time and talents to run for these important positions. We will be sharing more information on the candidates in the coming weeks as we proceed through this process. Feel free to reach out to any Leadership Development member—Donna Davis, Ellen Loewy, Kaz Huston, Nancy Commisso, and Pam Everett—if you have any questions or concerns. You may email LDC at LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org.



8th Principle Workshop: Exploring Unconscious Bias and Micro Aggressions, Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m., UUSD, Sponsored by Leadership Development, Social & Environmental Justice, Adult Faith Exploration and UUSD Cares: Please join us for a thought provoking and engaging

workshop where we will explore unconscious bias and micro aggressions. The workshop will combine discussion, video, and break out groups to engage more deeply. A group lunch will follow the workshop. The workshop, delivered by the YWCA, will be held on April 22 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at UUSD. Space is limited so please make your reservation early by emailing LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MARGE AMODEI AND PENNI HOPE



Marge Amodei and Penni Hope just celebrated their one-year anniversary of membership at UUSD, but because they have been busy with getting married, work, and life, it's taken a while to get their new member profile down on paper. Hopefully, many of you have had the opportunity to get to know Marge and Penni and welcome them.

Marge and Penni met about seven years ago in Rehoboth Beach. Marge is originally from Philadelphia, and Penni is from Dover. Finding a spiritual home that they both enjoyed was important, and they found that at UUSD.

After joining UUSD in March 2022, they were married by Rev. Heather at a beautiful ceremony at UUSD in June 2022.

Marge works in Community Health, looking at social determinants of health, for Bay Health, and Penni is a Finance Director for IG Burton in Lewes. Work keeps them both busy. Penni has two grown sons, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Penni enjoys gardening and healthy cooking and eating, and they both enjoy bowling in a local league and playing Poker (Texas Hold'Em). They are thankful to have found UUSD and look forward to getting to know more of us in the year to come. Welcome Marge and Penni!

HOPE NEIKIRK

My husband and I recently moved from upstate New York to a welcoming community in Milton. I am a retired nurse and currently volunteer with Hospice and with Village Volunteers. Finding UUSD has been finding my spiritual home, a place where my faith is in sync with my beliefs.

My religious upbringing started in the formal, rather intimidating Episcopal



Church of my childhood in southern Connecticut. After marriage, the birth of two daughters, and a move from Minnesota to New York, my family attended the Reformed Church where friendships developed and traditions were followed, but the creed was not my truth. I couldn't seem to suspend my disbelief of the story of Christ's birth and resurrection. I appreciate the commonalities, as well as the differences, of *all* religions and reject the "one way" to God although I do believe in God, or a higher power, an unknown but loving energy. I sense that loving energy in the UU congregation, where all are welcome, differences are embraced, social justice is valued and demonstrated (I am looking forward to the series being offered through SDARJ on dialogue toward ending racism). I have found my faith community in UUSD.

BOARD COMMITTEE & AD HOC TEAM NEWS

ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION UUSD HUMANIST GROUP SELF-AWARENESS IS A BASIC PERSONAL GROWTH SKILL

Our Humanism Study Group seeks to inspire each other to grow to become more fully human. There are many ways to do this. Unitarian Universalists have Seven Principles to guide us. The American Humanist Association puts forth Ten Commitments, or virtues, to pursue. Brain science finds that self-awareness leads to activating the mind to building a more balanced and productive life.

Let's look at another path towards personal growth as detailed by Cindy Wigglesworth in her book, *SQ21, The Twenty-One Skills of Spiritual Intelligence*. Some call this the next step beyond emotional intelligence. She uses the word "spiritual" in a generic sense that can be translated as "self-actualization."

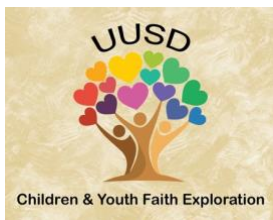
The SQ21 approach calls for building a fully human life on a foundation of self-awareness. It breaks out five ways to do that. They are (1) awareness of your personal world view, (2) awareness of your life purpose, (3) awareness of your hierarchy of values, (4) awareness of the complexity of your inner thoughts, and (5) awareness of self and higher self. These five objectives are developed extensively in the book. For a more detailed description of this approach, see the TEDx video at <https://youtu.be/mX9adEoFSaw>.

There are many ideas for personal growth in the book. Our group is now focusing on the quadrant titled Self Awareness. You are invited to read the book or come to listen to our impressions as we inspire each other towards Self Awareness at our April 20, 7 p.m. Zoom meeting.

As UUs and humanists we are working together to develop ourselves and to change the world. To join our email list and receive the Zoom link, please contact us at humanists@uussd.org. We welcome you as a first timer or an ongoing participant with humanists growing together.

CHILDREN'S FAITH EXPLORATION FAMILY COVENANT GROUP

Children's FE News and Updates:



The UUSD Playground: Great news! Our Phase One playground was delivered! Thank you to Gary Schmidt for meeting the delivery truck and to Ken Lowey and Justin Haase for organizing the assembly. We will need volunteers to help put things together. Watch the weekly eNews for details and dates!

UUSD kids thank you for supporting their playground fundraising. They are so excited!

Mark Your Calendar:

April 2: Children are invited to attend a multigenerational service in our sanctuary. Seats will be reserved for families up front.

April 9: Egg Hunt on UUSD grounds immediately following the service! Thank you to the Connections Covenant Group for providing eggs and goodies for UUSD kids as well as West Rehoboth kids! As part of our regular 10:00 a.m. session, Rosemary Weiland will introduce a puppet show, *Fountain of Hope*, based on the work of Rachel Carson.

If you have questions, ideas for future programs, can present on topics of interest to children, or need more information about children's programming at UUSD, please email ChildrensFaithExp@uussd.org or contact Darlene Sellers at 302-396-3314.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS
MAC GOEKLER, CHAIR

UU Cluster Family Day, Saturday, August 5, Killens Pond State Park: We will be using the same covered pavilion, and again the kids (of all ages) can enjoy the water park for \$10, which is a quarter of the cost here at the beach.

UUA Proposed Bylaw Article II Revision: This UUA updated version of their bylaw Article II will be open for amendment suggestions by **all UUs** starting April 1. Visit the UUA Article II Commission for details <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

The Article II proposal and the story behind it are at:
<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>.

For more information, contact Mac Goekler at denomaffairs@uussd.org.

FINANCE
RON SCHAEFFER, CHAIR

We are now eight months through the fiscal year (FY-July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023), and our financial status remains healthy. Our pledge commitment for the entire fiscal year is \$297,353, and we have collected \$12,874, or 4.3 percent in actual pledge fulfillment in the month of February. Our pledge fulfillment through the first eight months of the fiscal year is 77 percent of our total pledge commitment. Our income and expenses paid through February 28 are as follows:

- Total income: \$266,992 (79 percent of the total budget)
- Total expenses: \$203,250 (60 percent of the total budget)
- The net operations surplus through the end of February: \$63,742.

This is a healthy financial position for the first eight months of the fiscal year.

Our thanks go to all our members and friends who support UUSD. We hope this information is helpful to you, and we welcome your questions and comments.

A side note: For anyone age 73 or older and with a taxable Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you may be required to withdraw a minimum amount of funds from your IRA in any calendar year, known as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can meet a part of this requirement by withdrawing funds for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), and that withdrawal helps meet your RMD, but without incurring federal income tax. We are not providing income tax or investment advice, but if you

have an IRA, we recommend you talk with your financial advisor to take full advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UUSD CLOUD SOCIETY



We have some UUSD members who may not know much about UUSD's legacy gift program, the **Cloud Society**. As you walk through the Gathering Area after a service or meeting, you will notice the Cloud Society plaque on the wall designed and created by Gabriel Zepecki, one of our long-time members. The motif is a tree with roots and gold leaves representing members who have joined the Cloud Society and made a financial commitment to UUSD in their will, life insurance policy, or estate plan.

Currently, we have 40 Cloud Society members, and UUSD has received four legacy gifts. You can read more about the program in the new brochure, which explains what you need to do if you are interested in joining. Feel free to contact Ron Schaeffer at r.schaeffer@uussd.org if you have any questions. The Cloud Society brochure is posted on the UUSD website at: https://uussd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-11-Cloud-Soc-2022-4ptr_FINAL.pdf.

FUNDRAISING AUCTION

UUSD's Online *Awesome Annual Auction*

Starts: Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.

Ends: Saturday, May 20, 4:00 p.m.



UUSD's online "Awesome Annual Auction" will start May 13, 10 a.m. and end May 20 at 4 p.m. The FUNdraising Committee will accept auction donations in person on Sunday mornings after the worship service on **April 2, 9, 16, and 23**.

Donation forms are available [HERE](#) and at UUSD. Please complete all areas of the form

and return it in one of three easy ways:

- Via in person at UUSD
- Via email by emailing the form to Auction@uussd.org
- Via U.S. mail by mailing the form to UUSD, 30486 Lewes Georgetown Highway, Lewes, DE 19958, marked attention: Gwen Johnson or Beth Law.

WHAT COULD YOU DONATE TO THE AUCTION?

You may be surprised at the variety of items or events you could donate to this year's auction! Some examples include:

1. TANGIBLE ITEMS:

Handmade crafts, jewelry, art, or other décor; wood craft, glass art, antique pieces; new household items; new appliances; good costume jewelry; and unique boutique/pre-owned treasures (nearly new). Note: No wall art—framed or unframed—will be accepted this year due to space limitations.

2. FOOD DONATIONS:

Homemade pies, cakes, cookies, soups, dinners, dinners delivered once a month for a year (or less), or a themed basket, such as beach supplies, pet supplies, wine, or spa basket.

3. EVENT DONATIONS:

Dessert and cards night, a picnic at a local park, a theme party for a holiday, a dinner or party game gathering at your home, or a movie night. You could offer an outdoor activity, such as canoeing, biking, or hiking. Another idea would be to share a skill in person or online Zoom, such as how to knit or crochet, jewelry making, yoga, or woodworking. Trips might also be offered to auction; perhaps a weekend at an apartment or condo you may own for a weekend in Philly or a week at Disney in Florida!

4. SERVICES:

Flowers for delivery, home cleaning service, etc.

MATCHING GIFTS:

If you are unable to donate an item or event but would still like to support the auction, you can sign up to match a percentage of our proceeds from the auction. You can cap your gift not to exceed a specific amount. Contact Carol Huckabee at MatchingFunds@uussd.org.

Need more ideas? Contact Gwen Johnson or Beth Law at Auction@uussd.org.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAC AND SUSAN GOEKLER, CO-CHAIRS

The April ASK: *Care for the Earth*. In honor of Earth Day, do something new this month to care for our mother, the Earth. Suggested actions:

- Don't use plastic water bottles.
- Reduce the use of all plastics.
- Compost, don't burn yard waste.
- Compost kitchen waste.
- Reduce driving.
- Eat less meat or eat a plant-based diet.
- Plant a vegetable garden.
- Buy local at farmers' markets and sign up for Community Supported agriculture (CSA).
- Explore getting solar panels.
- Support legislation for clean energy and climate solutions.



Share the Plate. Our **Share the Plate** offering in **April** is for **Sussex Preservation Coalition**. UUSD is one of the Allied Groups supporting the Coalition. Their mission is to increase the effectiveness of groups and individuals working in Sussex County to preserve natural habitats, promote resilience, sustainability, and climate adaptation. Our donation will help with operating expenses (including communications, space rental, event organizing, etc.) incurred in fulfilling the Coalition's mission of education, advocacy, and policy change. Their work addresses issues such as land use, water quality, and forest preservation. They are launching a Woodlands Preservation Project this spring.

You can contribute online throughout the month on the UUSD website at [Donate](#) for **Share the Plate**, or you can send a check to UUSD (30486 Lewes Georgetown Highway, Lewes, DE 19958) with **Share the Plate** in the memo line. Contact SocialJustice@uussd.org if you need more information.

Our Share the Plate is “*in accordance with our Resolution of Conscience supporting Environmental Justice.*”

Addressing Racism through Criminal (In)Justice Reform – A Forum at UUSD: The war on drugs, mass incarceration, the bail bond system, fines and fees that continue accruing, unequal sentencing, probation rules that send people back to prison for minor infractions, profiling, etc. All these issues are parts of the U.S. criminal

legal system that have sustained racial disparities by disproportionately affecting minorities and those with less income. They contribute to keeping us a divided society.

UUSD is partnering with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, the Smart Justice/Clean Slate initiative of ACLU, the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison, the Way Home, Network Delaware and others to offer a forum on **April 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. in person at UUSD** (30486 Lewes Georgetown Highway (Rt. 9), Lewes. Speakers with knowledge specific to Delaware will discuss the situation here and some opportunities to influence legislative and structural changes. This is for anyone who cares about justice and equity and racism. Please come and find out how you can make a difference. For questions or to sign up, send an email to SocialJustice@uussd.org.

Come Join Us: Help with the Annual Review of UUSD's Resolution of Conscience: UUSD's Social & Environmental Justice Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m. At the April meeting, we will review the current [Resolution of Conscience](#) and decide whether to suggest updates. Currently we are meeting via Zoom. We are open to new participants. We welcome new energy and ideas for strengthening our work for social and environmental justice. To get on the email list to receive notice of opportunities to engage and about meetings, send a request to SocialJustice@uussd.org.

Upcoming Opportunities – Save the Dates

- April 4, 6:30 p.m. – Social & Environmental Justice Committee Zoom meeting
- April 18, 6:30 p.m. – Forum: Racial Justice through Criminal (In)Justice Reform, UUSD
- April 23, 10 a.m. – Earth Day Service, UUSD
- June 1 – Multifaith program on stereotypes, Georgetown
- June 4, 6:30 p.m. – Selma to Stonewall film with discussion and snacks, UUSD
- June 10 – Pride Festival Day, Dover
- June 17 – Juneteenth, Georgetown, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. UUSD will be marching in the parade.
- June 24 – Juneteenth in Lewes, 1-6 p.m.

UUSSD EVENTS

First Saturdays, 10 a.m.-Noon, UUSD Memoir Writing Affinity Group, UUSD: Ever have deeper questions about who you really are and your future? You are invited to join our supportive Group to explore your answers, understand your life's journey and spiritual path, as well as steer your future because each one of us has a story to tell. Sharing is optional. No skilled writing is needed. We're using self-discovery resources including, *Writing our Sacred Journey* by E. J. Andrew (at UUA bookstore, etc.) chosen by Rev. Heather. Kaz Huston is the facilitator. Please contact Bobbi Dunham at b.dunham@uussd.org if interested.

"Still Time," April 6 and 27, May 4 and 18, June 1 and 15, 10-11 a.m., UUSD: "Still Time" will be held in the foyer/living room area or on the UUSD back deck, weather permitting. Join Rev. Heather for a half hour of sitting still and quietly in the good company of others. This is an informal offering supporting us all in creating time to mutually sit in silence together. We will start out with a poem or a short reading, and after about 30-40 minutes of silence, share briefly with one another anything that may have arisen for us during the quiet. Come and join us. Co-hosted by Adult Faith Exploration.

Men's Covenant Group, Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. In Person and Zoom: The UUSD Men's Covenant Group will meet on Saturday, April 8 at 9 to 11:00 a.m. in the UUSD Gathering Area, and Zoom will be available. John Sykes will facilitate check-in and a discussion of "the UUA for beginners, a guide to what it is, how it relates to UUSD, and proposed changes." Contact Ron Schaeffer at r.schaeffer@uussd.org if you are interested in joining the Group, or if you have any questions.

Adult Faith Exploration, Coping with Loss and New Opportunities in Retirement, Saturdays, April 15 and 29, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – Noon, UUSD Sanctuary: The purpose of this class is to identify what we give up in retirement like loss of work, identity, friends, homes, and communities, and to discuss what this means for UUSD class members. Mary Quigley, LDCSW, facilitator, will draw on her own experiences, as well as her 40 years of being a psychotherapist, to discuss the psychological reasons why this is harder for some than others. Retirement also means a chance to explore new identities and activities. Eric Erickson calls it the stage of generativity versus stagnation. It is a perfect time in life for reflection, meditation, community involvement, and giving to others. How can we help each other do that? What will be the role of UUSD in these changes in support of our UU principles involving spiritual growth and the search for truth and meaning? The class will be limited to 15 people. Please register at AdultFaithExp@uussd.org by **Noon, Thursday, April 14.**



UUSD Drum Circle, Thursday, April 20, 6-7:30 p.m., UUSD: Drum up more good vibrations at the UUSD Drum Circle, Thursday, April 20, 6 p.m. Some say April drumming brings May flowers. (Drumming is the energy; showers are the medium.) Our community drum circle is free-form, self-expression. All drummers, novice or experienced, are welcome free of charge. Extra drums, rattles, and percussives will be available. Hosted by Sue Greer and Tony Codella, our drum circle is held indoors, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at UUSD, 30486 Lewes-Georgetown Hwy, Lewes. Contact Tony at drumcircle@uussd.org if questions. Please join us. Share your energy and tap into everyone else's. You'll blossom.



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Delaware

8th Principle Workshop: Exploring Unconscious Bias and Micro Aggressions, Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m., UUSD, Sponsored by Leadership Development, Social & Environmental Justice, Adult Faith Exploration and UUSD Cares: Please join us for a thought provoking and engaging

workshop where we will explore unconscious bias and micro aggressions. The workshop will combine discussion, video, and break out groups to engage more deeply. A group lunch will follow the workshop. The workshop, delivered by the YWCA, will be held on April 22 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at UUSD. Space is limited so please make your reservation early by emailing: leadershipdevelopment@uussd.org.

Addressing Racism through Criminal (In)Justice Reform – A Forum at UUSD, April 18, 6:30 p.m., UUSD: UUSD is partnering with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, the Smart Justice/Clean Slate initiative of ACLU, the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison, the Way Home, Network Delaware and others to offer a forum on April 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. in person at UUSD. People with knowledge specific to Delaware will discuss the situation here and some opportunities to influence legislative and structural changes. This is for anyone who cares about justice and equity and racism. Please come and find out how you can make a difference. For questions or to sign up, send an email to SocialJustice@uussd.org. (More details in the Social & Environmental Justice article on page 10.)

UUSD Family Covenant Group, April 29, from 5-7 p.m., UUSD: This month, a UUSD Family Covenant Group (loosely drawing upon the monthly UU Soul Matters theme materials) is meeting on Saturday, April 29 from 5-7 p.m., at UUSD (in the Gathering Area and Faith Exploration Rooms). We are in the process of arranging childcare. Please let Dar Sellers (ChildrensFaithExp@uussd.org) know if you and all or some of your family are able to attend, how many of you are adults who'll be participating in the adult group, and how many are children who will participating in the children's activities. Rev. Heather will be facilitating the adult portion of the evening, and Dar Sellers will be facilitating the children's activities. Please bring something to share in the way of a simple supper. This program is open to all families with school-age (0-18yo) children at home. Join us in building community between and among our UUSD Families!

CONTACTS

STAFF & OFFICERS

Minister: Rev. Heather Rion Starr Minister@uussd.org

Director of Music Ministries: Julie Keefer,
DirMusicMin@uussd.org

Office Administrator: Sandy Scheet-Robitaille,
Admin@uussd.org

Bookkeeper: Leah Ann Thompson

(Direct all bookkeeping, pledge data requests, and related financial matters to Richard Wheeler and Kent Sprunger, Co-Finance Officers, at BOTFinanceOfficer@uussd.org)

Board of Trustees: 2022 - 2023

President: Paul Barnette, BOTPresident@uussd.org

Vice President: Linda Marsden,
BOTVicePres@uussd.org

Co-Finance Officer: Kent Sprunger
BOTFinanceOfficer@uussd.org

Co-Finance Officer: Richard Wheeler

Secretary: Jane Miller, BOTSecretary@uussd.org

Trustees: Laura Borsdorf & Beth Law

COMMITTEES/GROUPS/TEAMS

Communications: Pat Schaeffer,
Communications@uussd.org

Congregational Life: Deanna DUBY - Chair, Carol Huckabee, & Marty McLaren,
CongregationalLife@uussd.org

Covenant and Affinity Groups (Ad Hoc): Bobbi Dunham, SmallGrpMin@uussd.org

Denominational Affairs: Mac Goekler,
DenomAffairs@uussd.org

Executive Team: ExecTeam@uussd.org
Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Jean Charles, Ellen Lytton, and Don Peterson

Expansion Planning: Inactive

Finance: Ron Schaeffer & Bobbe Baggio
Finance@uussd.org

Cloud Society: Ron Schaeffer,
CloudSociety@uussd.org

FUNDraising: Gwen Johnson & Beth Law, Co-Chairs,
FUNDraising@uussd.org

Governance Review Team: Donna Dolce, Mac Goekler, Ellen Lytton, & Pat Murdock, GovRevTeam@uussd.org

Human Resources: Pat Murdock,
HumanResources@uussd.org

Leadership Development: Donna Davis & Ellen Loewy, Co-Chairs, LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org

Lifespan Faith Exploration: Darlene Sellers & Betty Kirk, Co-Chairs, LifespanFaithExp@uussd.org

Adult Lifespan Faith Exploration: Betty Kirk,
AdultFaithExp@uussd.org

Children & Youth Lifespan Faith Exploration:
Darlene Sellers, ChildrensFaithExp@uussd.org

Librarian: Joyce Fitch, Librarian@uussd.org

Membership: Barbara Barnette, Membership@uussd.org

Music: Dianne Conine, Music@uussd.org

Pastoral Care: Michele Cavanaugh,
PastoralCare@uussd.org

Property Management: Gary Schmidt,
PropMgmt@uussd.org

AV: Dianne Conine, Jaclyn Keefer, & Gary Schmidt,
AVTeam@uussd.org

Energy Team: Allan Cairncross, Energy@uussd.org

Kitchen Team: Anne Pikolas,
KitchenTeam@uussd.org

Landscape Management: Linda DeFeo & Margaret Keefe, LandscapeTeam@uussd.org

Rental & Usage: Jean Charles,
RentalUsage@uussd.org

Usage Facilitator: Jean Charles,
UsageFacilitators@uussd.org

Men's Covenant Group: Ron Schaeffer,
MensCovGrp@uussd.org

Safer Congregation: Ruth Lamothe,
SaferCongComm@uussd.org

Social & Environmental Justice: Susan & Mac Goekler,
SocialJustice@uussd.org

USD Cares: Kris Acker, USDCares@uussd.org

Worship: Jean Charles & Rick Welk, Co-Chairs,
Worship@uussd.org

Ushers: Tony Codella, Ushers@uussd.org

COMMUNICATIONS

Facebook Administrators: Pat Schaeffer & Alleane Taylor

Newsletters: Beacon at the Beach & Thursday eNews:
Editor at Large: Pat Schaeffer

Copy Editors: Kay Creech, Sue Brown, & Alleane Taylor

Photo Team: Sue Brown & Pat Schaeffer,
PhotoTeam@uussd.org

Publicity Team: Alice Casey, Publicity@uussd.org

USD Website: uussd.org

Website Administrators: Alleane Taylor, Lead, Anita Gossett, Margaret Keefe, & Ronnie Smith,
WebsiteAdmin@uussd.org

Website Content Administrator: Pat Schaeffer,
Communications@uussd.org

Directory changes for contact information to DirectoryUpdates@uussd.org

Beacon at the Beach Newsletter articles due the 20th of each month to Publications@uussd.org

eNews Updates to Publications@uussd.org

Publicity requests to Publicity@uussd.org

Order of Service (OOS) notices by Tuesday Noon to Admin@uussd.org

Community Updates by Thursday to Jean Charles

Website Calendar Updates to Admin@uussd.org