



UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* - JANUARY 2023

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JANUARY SERMONS

**Sunday, January 1, 10 a.m., “A Service of Remembrance,” Lay Leaders: Mac & Susan Goekler, Peter Schott, Micah Jung, and Marta Dominguez:** We take time at the beginning of a new year to celebrate the lives of people who affected our lives directly or indirectly and to remember those who died this past year. During this service we acknowledge their contributions, which help make us who we are today. We will celebrate through words, images, and music. This is a celebration of life. Those that are remembered are with us. Please note: Incense will be burned in the front of the sanctuary during the meditation time. If this will be a problem for you, please feel free to sit in the back or go to the gathering area during the meditation.

**Sunday, January 8, 10 a.m., “Why Bother?” Rev. Heather Rion Starr:** Drawing upon Elizabeth Andrew’s lovely book, *Writing the Sacred Journey: The Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir*, we’ll consider “why bother?” Why bother remembering, sharing, telling, and perhaps even getting our own life stories down on paper? How is telling the story of something that happened, perhaps decades ago, a spiritual practice? (And, really, is it?)

**Sunday, January 15, 10 a.m., “I Come Not to Praise King,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr:** Challenged by the prophetic words of Rev. Bill Jones, we will stretch ourselves to think *beyond* honoring the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., this morning and this weekend, and consider what it really means to live into calls for civil rights in today’s 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

**Sunday, January 22, 10 a.m., “Walk the Maze with this Faith,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr:** Today’s service is inspired by the 2019 *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, edited by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, who is now in the final six months of her five-year UUA Presidency. As we move towards a new UUA President, consider new proposed language for our UUA Bylaws (which include Unitarian Universalism’s Purposes and Principles), what is “transient,” and what is “permanent” about this ever-evolving UU faith? *Following today’s service, there will be a workshop open to all, led by Susan and Mac Goekler of UUSD’s Denominational Affairs Committee, presenting the latest proposed bylaw changes at the denominational level. They will discuss how you can be involved in the ongoing development of the bylaws.*

**Sunday, January 29, 10 a.m., “Jean Charles Service Sunday,” Paul Barnette and the Board of Trustees:** Paul Barnette, Board President, will explain why he looks at service to the congregation as a spiritual practice. For the last 15 years, Paul has served the congregation in various capacities including three terms on the Board of Trustees. Many UUSD members have given the Jean Charles Service Sunday sermon over the past several years. They include Don Peterson, Kris Acker and the FUNdraising Committee, Deanna Duby, and Len Bowman, who spoke about our covenant articulated in our Principles and UUSD’s Mission and Vision Statement. Those who have been with UUSD for some time are very familiar with this service and know its history. But if you are new to UUSD, you may be wondering what the Jean Charles Service Sunday is about. The Jean Charles Service Sunday was created several years ago by the Board of Trustees to honor Jean’s exemplary service to the congregation. The Board felt Jean’s unwavering dedication to service was a model for the congregation and deserved to be recognized in a special way. As a result, the Jean Charles Service Sunday was created to recognize each year the importance of leadership and service to UUSD.

**REV. HEATHER RION STARR, MINISTER**



Dear UUSD Members and Friends,

I love being a parent of rambunctious, energetic kids; I love being a parish minister; and I love a lot of other things about my life these days. And...sometimes I do miss being able to read a book from front to back, from cover-to-cover. There just isn’t time for that in my life right now. Except, maybe: winter break. There may just be a few days coming up here when I can read for more than five uninterrupted minutes. So, because there’s the possibility of that, I have a whole stack of books ready to go (in my often somewhat unrealistic, over-ambitious fashion). Here they are in case you’re interested and/or inspired to join me in savoring reading any of these!

First of all, I’m excited to dive into and really immerse myself in the wisdom of Elizabeth Andrew in her book, *writing the sacred journey: the art and practice of spiritual memoir*, which we’ll be drawing upon for the two-part Adult Faith Exploration class I’ll be offering in January (see further on in this newsletter for more details on that class). Even if you’re not planning or able to take this class, the book is a treasure trove of encouragement and support for putting our most closely-held stories into words on the page—which I try to do for you for many a Sunday, so it’s all grist for the mill.

Right in there with church-related books, I continue to carry around with me copies of *The Myth of the 200 Barrier: How to Lead Through Transitional Growth*, by Kevin E. Martin. I wrote about the value of this book for those of us in leadership at UUSD in my November Beacon column. As our Sunday attendance numbers continue to inch up, the wisdom and perspective this slim volume offers will continue to be useful for us all—and current Board members each have a copy as well.

We are also part of larger communities in Sussex County that have been engaging in conversations inspired by the book: *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times*, by Monica Guzman. I’m looking forward to learning from Guzman, who I understand also hosts a lively podcast.

As this congregation’s Safer Congregation Team continues to refine its priorities and scope, I’ve found it helpful to pick up the book *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*, by Hans Rosling. There is so much in this book that is useful to be aware of when thinking about broad societal dynamics and how we human beings react, respond, and prepare for potential crises (and opportunities) of the future.

Other books that I carry around with me almost more as sacred texts than as ones I ever expect to sit and read cover-to-cover include: *Who Do We Choose to Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity*, by Margaret Wheatley, *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*, by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky with Connie Burk, and *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*, by Pema Chodron. If I was on a desert island with other people, only three books and a lot of gluten-free granola bars, these are the books I'd want to have. I'd love to know what your books of choice would be!

I always enjoy hearing from you, via whatever mode of communication you prefer. You can reach me best by email, 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). It is so good to co-create community with you, and to move alongside one another towards whatever comes. Happy New Year and may we all find ways to nourish our spirits and build meaningful community in 2023!

Warmly,



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

**November 22 Board Business Meeting**

**Review of October Financial Report:** Co-Finance Officer Kent Sprunger led a review of UUSD's month-end financial documents including the October Summary Income & Expense Statement Reports for Operations & Capital Funds and October 2022 Balance Sheets. Kent clarified that the member loan (Schmidts) has been repaid with interest. Kent reminded the BOT that his goal is to begin tracking UUSD's financial data in QuickBooks in January or by February 2023 at the latest. This is also true for moving data management from PowerChurch to Breeze. The Board approved the financial reports unanimously as presented.

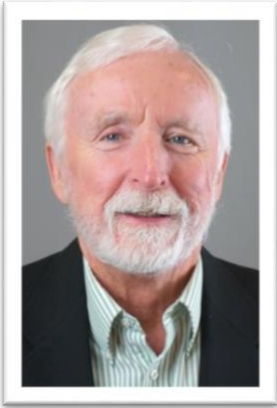
**Executive Team Request for Additional Funding for Google Workspace Training Sessions in 2023:** ET Representative Don Peterson provided a budget request detailing ET's need for additional funds to hire the GW Consultant to provide additional training on the Google Workspace Platform for those congregants that have not been able to take advantage of the training. After some discussion, Chris Leslie moved that the Board approve the funding request using funds from the FY23 budget. The motion was approved and seconded and the vote to pass the motion was unanimous.

**Review of the "Next Steps Weekend":** Chris Leslie invited the BOT to review their experience regarding the conduct and content of the NSW process. The general consensus was that the process went very well, and the conversations with Mark Ewert were worthwhile and very informative for all involved. Next steps will be determined by the BOT in consultation with the Expansion Planning Committee once we have received and reviewed Mark's final report.

**BOT Strategic Vision for FY24:** Richard Wheeler proposed that the BOT reach out to the committees that have a Board Liaison to begin to identify FY24 goals and outcomes in preparation for naming a funding amount they will request early in the New Year for the FY24 budget. Everyone agreed that the BOT should take the lead in starting the FY24 budgeting process.

***Bike Ride to Raise Funds for the Children’s Playground Fund:*** Paul asked the BOT to consider approving his proposal that he and others from UUSD be allowed to conduct a three-day fundraising bike ride from the Northeast point in Delaware to Fenwick Island, Delaware to raise funds for the Children’s Playground Fund. The ride would take place during the first week of October 2023. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

**December 13 Board Planning/Business Meeting  
(Due to the holidays this was the only BOT Meeting in December.)**



***Review of November Financial Report:*** Kent Sprunger provided a review of the November 2022 Month End Financial Statements. Income was higher for the month due to both the Craft Fair and pledge income. Spending continues to be steady. The motion to approve the financial report was passed unanimously. December financials will be the final month for PowerChurch. The Chart of Accounts (COA) has been entered into QuickBooks. The COA is now a more mature and smaller structure due to collective work by Kent, Richard Wheeler, and Leah Thompson, our bookkeeper. Best practices from other UU Congregations have been utilized. Breeze is ready to go, with individual/family pledge data ready later in the Spring of 2023. After January 1, 2023, financial data will be tracked in QuickBooks. Vanco will be used until those using the Breeze system get comfortable with it.

***Presentation of Safer Congregation Team Charge:*** Safer Congregation Team Chair Ruth Lamothe presented the draft charge for the Safer Congregation Team. The Board reviewed the draft charge and made recommendations for change to the document. Approval of the charge was tabled to allow time for Ruth to meet with the team and review the proposed changes. The revised charge is scheduled to be on the agenda in January 2023.

Ruth reviewed some of the procedures instituted in order to keep the congregation safe. The Team has been in touch with Seaside Jewish Center, Epworth UMC, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), and Diaz Bonville of Westside New Beginnings, on their safety procedures. The Team has received one proposal from Alarm Engineering. Additional proposals will be requested after consultation with the Contract Review Team. Richard Wheeler suggested the Team develop a Statement of Work to provide potential bidders with a clear idea of what we plan to purchase.

***Update on FY24 Pledge Campaign:*** Kent Sprunger updated the Board on the FY24 Pledge Campaign. The Subcommittee has been meeting monthly with Ron Schaeffer as the Chair. The theme of the campaign will be “Dream It! Do It!” The pledge and budget subcommittees are working closely and have created a master schedule. There will be a “soft launch” for the campaign after the BOT approves the FY24 budget on February 14. In order to get a head-start on 100% leadership pledging, leaders will be asked to begin pledging after February 20. March 5, 2023 will be the campaign kick-off to the congregation.

***“Brownie Incident” Next Steps:*** The second “Listening Session” facilitated by the UUA Trauma Response Ministry (UUTRM) was held on December 10 via Zoom. Resources provided by the team were emailed to members that were directly impacted by ingesting the brownies, spouses/partners, along with those providing support at the ER and at home. On Sunday, December 18, the BOT released a communication with a link to the updated Fact Statement to the members, friends, and staff of UUSD that stated we are moving towards closure of the incident. Anyone needing further assistance was asked to contact the Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Michele Cavanaugh.

***Short Term Visioning Process for FY 24 Budget:*** Richard Wheeler gave the Board an update on the visioning process for the FY24 budget. The budget will be a challenging one this year with the following needs already identified: A/V Support for weekly services and special events, hiring of a half time Director of Children & Youth

Faith Exploration, and a proposed increase to the Landscaping Committee and Social & Environmental Justice Committee's budgets. Committees will be requested to submit budgets no later than January 23, 2023.

**The BOT Planning Meeting takes place on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 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**  
**ZOOM IN THE NEW YEAR BY LEARNING SOMETHING NEW**

Start off the new year by challenging yourself to grow and learn. Two sessions of Zoom 101 are being offered to accommodate various schedules on **January 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.**



Thought you knew everything there is to know about Zoom? Did you know that there are new features available such as an immersive view enabling you to pull all the meeting participants into a virtual background, allowing everyone to discuss and collaborate in a cohesive virtual space? Did you know there is now an option to enable sign language interpretation for meetings?

Come and learn the basics but there is also so much more. This workshop will be held in person. Bring your own device. Experienced Zoom users will be available to give you hands-on support.

A Zoom review session will be held on **January 17 from noon – 1 p.m.** via Zoom so participants can practice their new skills.

To register, please email [LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org](mailto:LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org).

**LEADERSHIP IN ACTION...OUR UU FUTURE IS UP TO YOU!**



The New Year is finally here, and our busy holidays are now behind us. With the start of a New Year, Leadership Development (LDC) is turning to the future and the opportunities for UUSD members to fill elected positions on the Board of Trustees (BOT) and LDC starting July 1, 2023. At this year's Annual Meeting in June 2023, the congregation will elect **three members for the Board of Trustees and two members for LDC**. Those elected will serve two-year terms from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

UUSD elects Board and LDC members by self-nomination. The self-nomination approach is transparent and democratic. Enriched by our diversity, we seek nominations from everyone, regardless of race, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, whom you love, or any other human characteristic. Any UUSD member interested in serving in an elected leadership position on the Board of Trustees or on LDC can self-nominate themselves for these positions.

LDC is responsible for managing the self-nomination process and the election. This work is organized under LDC's *Guided Pathways: From Member to Mentor*.

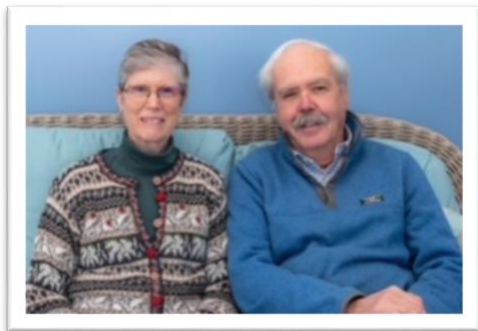
Here is what you can expect in the months ahead:

1. **January – March:** LDC will send a special email to the congregation in late January with additional information about the self-nomination process, including the Self-Nomination forms and descriptions of the positions on the Board and LDC.
2. **February – March:** LDC will hold interactive prospective candidate sessions about serving on the Board of Trustees and LDC. The self-nomination process will close at the end of March. Everyone is welcome to join these sessions and learn more about the process.
3. **April – May:** LDC will share information provided by the self-nominees to the congregation. LDC will also sponsor Candidate Forums for BOT and LDC self-nominees so the congregation can get to know them and their qualifications to take these important positions at UUSD.
4. **June** – The congregation will vote at the Special Meeting in June for those that want to serve on the Board and in LDC positions for the 2023-2025 terms.

This is an exciting time to consider becoming an elected leader at UUSD and sharing your experience, talents, and dedication with your loving UUSD community.

For more information, contact the Leadership Development Committee at [LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org](mailto:LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org).

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS BRENDA AND WARREN BOUTON  
DONNA DAVIS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CO-CHAIR**



Brenda and Warren Bouton retired to Milford from New Hampshire six years ago and have been seeking the right spiritual community for themselves. Lucky for us they have found it at UUSD! Warren spent his career as a Minister in the United Church of Christ, and Brenda has shared her love of music in roles including Choir Director and Church Organist. Their family includes their daughter Sarah, son in law, and two grandchildren in Northern Maryland, and their son Ben, daughter in law, and three grandchildren in Vancouver. Oh, and their yellow lab mix rescue!

Since moving to Delaware, Warren has enjoyed spending time as a wildlife photographer, and Brenda is a member of the Kent Chamber Choir. They both find meaning by volunteering at the Delaware Food Bank twice per week to help support the mission of the organization. Here at UUSD Warren has joined the Men's Covenant Group, and Brenda the Choir. You might also see Warren behind a camera here occasionally as well. A fun fact is that Warren, who grew up on Nantucket, has written several children's books. Look for the series "Spooky Tales from Nantucket" the next time you are there!

Please join me in welcoming Warren and Brenda. We are delighted that they have decided to call UUSD their spiritual home!

**BOARD COMMITTEE & AD HOC TEAM NEWS**

**UUSD CARES AND SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF THE CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT**



Thank you for the outpouring of love and kindness! On Monday, December 12, a small convoy of three stuffed SUV's delivered holiday gifts for the children of twelve families of the Cape Henlopen School District. That added up to 46 children's gifts and a special gift for each family. In addition, another family referred by Rev. Heather received gift cards to help make for a happy holiday.

The generosity of this congregation was not surprising, but nonetheless uplifting, once again. Thank you everyone for this outpouring of love. Special thanks to Kris Acker (UUSD Cares) and Joanne Saltzberg, who coordinated this annual event for S&EJ and elves extraordinaire Dan Acker, Deb Davies, and Cheri Garnet.

The images of these children's joy opening their gifts is a warming thought in winter's darkness.

### UUSD BOOK CLUB

The UUSD Book Club has changed its meeting time to in person at UUSD from 3:30 to 5 p.m. When our group met to discuss our 2023 titles, we decided that we wanted to skip Zoom and meet in person, plus earlier so it would work for anyone who's not comfortable driving at night.

The list of books follows and if you can't commit to coming every month, please feel free to come when a title piques your interest! Blurbs on these books are on the UUSD website at <https://uusd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/UUSD-Book-Club-2023-3.pdf>, or email me at [K.Lunstead@uusd.org](mailto:K.Lunstead@uusd.org), and I'll send the list.

January 9 – *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg

February 6 - *Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals* by Oliver Burkeman.

March 6 - *Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America* by Pekka Hämäläinen

April 3 – *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng

May 8 – *You Should Have Known* by Jean H. Korelitz

June 5 – *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger

July 10 – *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

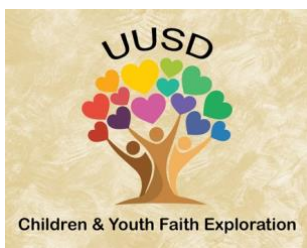
August 7 - *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage

September 11 - *The Ministry for the Future: A novel* by Kim Stanley Robinson

October 2 – *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

November 6 – Book still to be determined.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH FAITH EXPLORATION DARLENE SELLERS, CHAIR



#### Children's FE News and Updates

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

See photos of recent children's programs here: <https://uusd.org/learning/childrens-re-projects/>.

## Mark Your Calendar:

January regular Sunday CFE sessions will be held on January 8 and January 22. At our January 8 session, Ava Haase will share a book about Martin Luther King, Jr. Please check the weekly UUSD eNews for more info on this and our January 22 program.

We are looking forward to another exciting year for our children! 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@uusd.org](mailto:ChildrensFaithExp@uusd.org) or contact Darlene Sellers at 302-396-3314.

### **DRUMMING UP (NEW) GOOD VIBRATIONS THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 6-7:30 P.M., UUSD**



Every New Year's resolution is strengthened by a good drum circle immersion. In fact, joining in can be one. Our drumming is primarily free-form self-expression and all kindred drummers, new or experienced, are welcome free of charge. Hosted by Rev. Sue Greer, Ordained Spiritual Life Minister, and Tony Codella, it is held indoors starting at 6 p.m. at UUSD. Extra drums will be available. Contact [drumcircle@uusd.org](mailto:drumcircle@uusd.org) if more information is needed.

### **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS WORKSHOP, SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 11 A.M. THE REWRITE OF UUA BYLAW ARTICLE II—WHERE OUR UUA PRINCIPLES RESIDE**



The UUA has a Bylaw Article II Commission that has circulated concepts for a new Article II. UUSD will have a workshop following the Sunday Service on January 22 to address these changes.

This UUA Bylaw section describes us as UUs and our UU Association. The Inclusion, Freedom of Belief, and Purposes are still there—in modified form. They have updated the principles—now called Values and Covenant, forward looking statements. An addition to this section is a graphic of these Values Centered in Love. The Sources are now Inspirations.

After a series of outreach sessions (Mac and Susan Goekler were facilitators) and modifications, the Commission is now ready to present to the UUA Board a draft in mid-January. Mac and Susan plan on presenting this latest revision during the workshop.

The UUA Board will review and maybe amend this draft and put it in the June 2023 final agenda for General Assembly (GA).

Beginning in March, there will be public forums on this draft, and likely in May or June, there will be GA Mini-Assemblies. This is where GA Delegates can suggest amendments. At GA after a debate, there will be a vote—a majority sends this final version to GA 2024 (likely a virtual GA) for a final 2/3 vote to make this part of our UUA bylaws. UUSD needs a full slate of GA delegates as this is important. There will be another workshop on this issue in March 2023.

For more information go to <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

Mac Goekler, Denominational Affairs Chair



**FINANCE**  
**RON SCHAEFFER, CHAIR**

The financial picture for the month of November, the fifth month in our fiscal year (FY July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) continues to be positive. Our pledge commitment for the entire fiscal year is \$304,353, and we collected \$41,267 or 13.6% in actual pledge fulfillment in the month of November. Our pledge fulfillment through the first five months of the fiscal year is 56% of our total pledge commitment. Our income and expenses paid through November 30 are as follows:

- Total income: \$197,895 (58% of the total budget)
- Total expenses: \$127,830 (38% of the total budget)
- The net operations surplus through the end of October: \$70,065.

This is a good start for the first five months of the fiscal year. Committee expense is always below budget in the early months and is currently at 20% of budget, while staff compensation, mortgage payment, and facilities costs are more up to date.

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

**FUNDRAISING**  
**UUSD CRAFTING GROUP MEETS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 10 A.M.**

The UUSD Crafting Group meets for its first 2023 crafting session on Wednesday, January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Gathering Area. Several exciting new crafts are on the agenda for the new year.

Kris Acker is leading our January session that will focus on angel ornaments.

The main focus of our crafting group is to have fun and create community while we work on crafts that will be sold at the annual holiday craft fair. Whether you have never crafted before or have been doing crafts for years, all are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring your own craft to work on as well.

In 2023 the Crafting Group is taking on a slightly different look. This year the role of leading the group is rotating on a monthly basis. We are currently in search of additional volunteers to take on an active leadership role for one month or for a single session. Slots are open in April, July, August, September, and October. Come join us and have some fun! If you have questions about being a craft lead, please feel free to contact those of us who have led the crafting group in the past: Kris Acker, Gwen Johnson, or Ellen Lytton.

**MEN'S COVENANT GROUP**

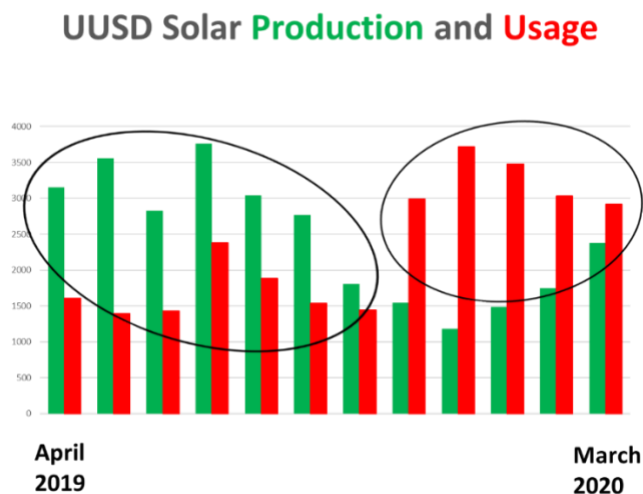
The UUSD Men's Covenant Group will meet on **Saturday, January 14 at 9 to 11:00 a.m.** in the UUSD Gathering Area, and Zoom will be available. Ron Schaeffer will facilitate an extended check-in session as we go into a new year. Contact Ron Schaeffer if you are interested in joining the Group or if you have any questions.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**  
**WHAT IS "NET ZERO," ANYWAY?**

It's been over six years since our solar panel system was completed in October 2016. Property Management's Energy Team has been monitoring the system performance and the building's energy usage on a monthly basis.

Here's a report from the Team on the current operation of the system.

When the 105 panel array was installed, it not only covered the entire west roof of the sanctuary, but was also the largest that Delmarva Power (DPL) would permit, as it was sized to generate 85% of the power that we were then consuming (about 36,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year). As we continued conservation efforts and fine-tuned the thermostat programming, we were generating 100% of our usage before the COVID shutdown, as the following graph illustrates:



The green bars show our energy production, which exceeded our usage for seven months in 2019. By the end of October, we had generated over 9000 kWh of excess electricity, which flowed back into the DPL power grid. DPL keeps an “Excess Generation” account, which was then debited through the colder months of the year. By the end of March, the account was nearly depleted, and DPL credited us a small amount on that bill.

So that is “net zero” usage: **On an annual basis, generating as much energy as you use.**

During the COVID shutdown, we were generating over 120% of our usage, but it's not meaningful to use from that period. We are now back to “net zero” for calendar year 2022, generating and using about 30,000 kWh annually.

Our DPL bills are consistently \$18 a month, which is our fixed “customer charge.” We don't own the solar panels and inverter equipment—they are leased from Clean Energy USA for a lease payment of about \$200 each month. This has been a good deal for us from several perspectives: (1) we didn't have capital cost to install the system, (2) monthly cost is known as opposed to variable monthly DPL bills, and (3) we don't have to maintain the equipment.

Please send any questions or comments to [energy@uussd.org](mailto:energy@uussd.org).

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

**THE JANUARY ASK:** So far, we have suggested the following actions on your part—and you have responded:  
November—VOTE  
December—GIVE.

Now for January—**Learn** more about civil rights history. Opportunities: View the film *Who We Are*; participate in MLK Banquet; attend the MLK Interfaith service (see below for more information about each of these); and read a book.

### SHARE THE PLATE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY VICKI NICHOLS



Our Share the Plate offering in January *and* February is for Lighthouse for Broken Wings. Lighthouse is currently bearing the cost of housing 25 people (including six families) at the Red Mill Inn. Additionally, Lighthouse needs funds so they can provide food and other necessities to others housed at the Inn by DHS (which only provides some housing vouchers). There are an additional 45 people (including 20 families) on their wait list. Funds are needed as this non-profit organization works to provide critical shelter in our area to keep local families with children safe while they are experiencing homelessness. Once again this year, as costs of food and shelter rise, there is even less financial assistance available.

*“In accordance with our Resolution of Conscience supporting Economic Justice and Women, Children and Families.”*

You can contribute online through 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@uusd.org](mailto:SocialJustice@uusd.org) if you need more information.

### GIVING TREE

UUSD members’ generous spirit was certainly in evidence as we contributed to the holidays for Cape Henlopen students in need. Thanks to all who lit up the holidays for a child. See more information in the article on pages 6–7 of the *Beacon*.

### UU SERVICE COMMITTEE, UUSC—GUEST AT YOUR TABLE MAC GOEKLER, UUSD LOCAL LIAISON TO UUSC



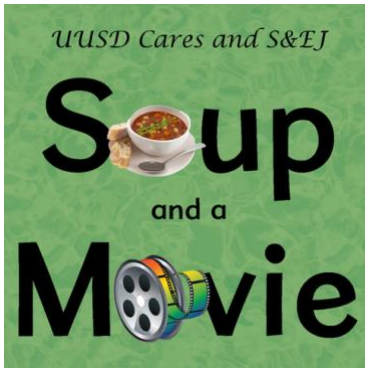
We are now completing UUSD’s annual UUSC Guest at Your Table (GAYT) campaign. Please note that donations of \$150 or more are matched 100%. Thanks to all who have already donated. Please note that the UUSC basket by the door to the Gathering Area is a place to pick up GAYT supplies and leave donations.

There is additional UUSC information in the basket plus UUSC stickers for your name badges. The final wrap-up is in early January. If you are trying to go “paperless,” you can do as Susan and Mac Goekler do—go to [UUSC.org](http://UUSC.org) and click on Donate. Make sure you put UUs of Southern DE in the “congregational box.” If you want to put loose change in the box, please tape the bottom of the box with packing tape. If you wish to skip the box, please put your money (preferably a check made out to UUSC in the supplied envelope) or please make checks out to “UUSC GAYT” and send to: UUSC.PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808 with UUs of Southern DE in the memo line. Many of us simply count the change and make out a check to UUSC for the change amount and put the change in a jar for our kids or grandkids. Mac Goekler will personally take care of getting the checks, etc. mailed in (making sure you and UUSD get credit for your generosity). Thanks for your generosity.

## BEING IN SOLIDARITY

During the Transgender Day of Remembrance held at UUSD on November 20, UUSD members joined with TransLiance and Sussex Pride to remember people murdered in the past year because they wanted to be who they were. It was especially poignant given the mass murders in Colorado Springs that same week.

### FILM AND POTLUCK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 5 P.M. UUSD CARES & SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



All are invited to a bread and soup potluck starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, January 13, at UUSD. This will be followed by a showing of the film *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America* with discussion to follow. There will be an alternate activity for children during the film. Please bring soup, a salad, or bread to share if you come to the dinner. Check the weekly *UUSD eNews* for more information.

*Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America* is a documentary feature film that confronts the painful history of slavery and anti-Black racism in America head on. Former ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jeffery Robinson was 11 years old when the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in Robinson's hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. Before King's murder, Robinson believed the country had reached a "tipping point," and true racial equality was within reach. When King was killed, it felt to Robinson like the movement died with him. How, he wondered, did we get here?

In *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*, Robinson asks all of us to examine who we are, where we come from, and who we want to be. The film interweaves historical and present-day archival footage, Robinson's personal story, and vérité and interview footage capturing Robinson's meetings with Black change-makers and eyewitnesses to history. Robinson shows how legalized discrimination and state-sanctioned brutality, murder, dispossession, and disenfranchisement continued long after slavery ended, profoundly impeding Black Americans' ability to create and accumulate wealth as well as to gain access to jobs, housing, education, and health care. Weaving heartbreak, humor, passion, and rage, Robinson's words lay bare an all-but-forgotten past, as well as our shared responsibility to create a better country in our lifetimes.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BANQUET AND INTERFAITH COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Organization will again hold a MLK Tribute Banquet on Saturday, January 14 at 4:30 p.m., at the CHEER Center located at 20520 Sand Hill Road, in Georgetown. If you have not already gotten tickets, it is probably too late. For additional information, call or email Don Peterson.

On Monday, January 16, the **MLK Holiday Community Worship Service** will begin at 10 a.m. The service will be in person at Trinity Faith Christian Center located at 15516 New Road, Lewes. All are invited—no reservations needed.

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- January 3 – Social & Environmental Justice Committee Meeting
- January 13, 5 p.m. – UUSD Film and potluck, *Who We Are* at UUSD
- January 14, 4:40 p.m. – Georgetown CHEER Center: MLK Tribute Banquet (Advance tickets required)
- January 16, 10 a.m. – Trinity Faith Christian Center, 15516 New Road, Lewes: MLK Community Worship Service

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*Directory changes for contact information to*

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*Beacon at the Beach Newsletter* articles due the 20<sup>th</sup> of

each month to [Communications@uussd.org](mailto:Communications@uussd.org)

*eNews Updates* to [Communications@uussd.org](mailto:Communications@uussd.org)

*Publicity* requests to [Publicity@uussd.org](mailto:Publicity@uussd.org)

*Order of Service (OOS) notices by Tuesday Noon* to

[Admin@uussd.org](mailto:Admin@uussd.org)

*Community Updates* by Thursday to Jean Charles

*Website Calendar Updates* to [Admin@uussd.org](mailto:Admin@uussd.org)