



UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* - JUNE 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sermons.....	1	Welcome New Members.....	4
Message from Rev. Heather Rion Starr.....	2	Committee News	4
Message from Paul Barnette & Board Highlights..	3	Events.....	6
Update from Leadership Development.....	4	Contacts.....	8

JUNE SERMONS

Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m., “Beauty Calls Us Together,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr and Julie Keefer, Director of Music Ministries: Today we will join in the annual tradition of the Flower Ceremony. This year we will draw upon a song cycle created by Kathryn Canan, Rev. Suzelle Lynch, and Ruben Piirainen, composed in 2023 to honor the 100-year anniversary of the Flower Ceremony. The Flower Ceremony originated in 1923 by the Rev. Dr. Norbert Čapek of the Congregation of Liberal Religious Fellowship in Prague, Czechoslovakia. This tradition continues to this day to give us a communal way to celebrate beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. *Please bring a flower or a small bouquet to add to our collective table.*

Sunday, June 11, 10 a.m., “Music Sunday: Peace and Love from Around the World,” Julie Keefer and the UUSD Choir: Julie Keefer, Director of Music Ministries, will lead the UUSD Choir. Together, they will share songs of peace and love from all over the world. Join us for a blessed time of music, the universal language of every nation!

Sunday, June 18, 10 a.m., “What Holidays Do You Celebrate?” Rev. Heather Rion Starr: What a great question! Not everyone celebrates the same holidays and hearing why certain holidays are particularly important to some people and families can be wonderfully engaging. Perhaps your family has chosen to celebrate Pride and/or Juneteenth, or intentionally chosen *not* to celebrate a major holiday in “the usual way.” Or perhaps your family has made up a special holiday of your own that you love to tell others about! On this Sunday, join us in celebrating all the things we can.

Wednesday, June 21, 6 p.m., “Summer Solstice Ceremony and Celebration,” Lay Leader Sue Greer: Come! Celebrate the fullness of Summer in all its abundance, joy, and warmth. We will gather to drum, have a fire ceremony, dance, and offer a clearing blessing of our drums. We will be outside, weather permitting. Bring chairs, drums, and rattles if you have them; we have some to share. Bring your blessings and prayers for our Earth in thanks for all that is generously given to us so we might live in balance.

Sunday, June 25, 10 a.m. There will be no UUSD-hosted service on this day. Online links will be provided for General Assembly 2023 and for other online services, which you may watch at your leisure.

REV. HEATHER RION STARR, MINISTER



Dear UUSD'rs,

The end of the congregational year is coming: can you feel it? Just like a school year, there is so much that culminates and transitions as our church year comes to a close, and we prepare for the next one to begin. I hope you'll all make an effort to join us for the **All Congregational Annual Meeting** on June 11, after the service, at which Members will vote upon the FY24 Budget, open Board member and Leadership Development Committee positions, and the updated UUSD Resolution of Conscience.

Simultaneously, so much flows and gains momentum from one year to the next.

This congregation's story is so exciting, and I am energized by all that is possible as we grow, lead, and strengthen this Unitarian Universalist community, together. I am genuinely looking forward with anticipation to the **July 28-30 "Searching for the Future" weekend with UU Consultant Mark Ewert**, from the stewardship consulting organization Stewardship For Us.

Please mark your calendar right now (if it isn't already) for **July 28-30: from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon**. In Mark's words, please note:

- This is a grassroots-up, all congregation workshop. We want as close to *everybody* as we can get (including children & youth). You (each of you, all of you) will work together to determine the future direction of the congregation!
- It is fun, engaging, and fast paced; no lectures or presentations—we want to know what *you* think about, dream, and hope for.
- This is an IRL (In Real Life), in-person only workshop—there will not be an online workshop alternative.
- You will need to sign up to attend (online registration)—either a Saturday morning or afternoon session (they are identical). Childcare will be offered if/as requested.

We are at a critical juncture for UUSD: in what direction(s) will we steer the energy of this growing, multigenerational community? How will we prioritize in coming years and be intentional about what we do next? Please plan to be here and be a part of this significant, focused weekend: **July 28-30!**

If you are still getting to know this community and you aren't sure if this weekend is "for you," please reach out to me or to Board President Paul Barnette with your interest and your questions. 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). Don't ever hesitate to nudge me if you don't get a reply right away—sometimes I get swamped or have to prioritize something other than email and need to be reminded of a message or note to look for. Warmly...

Rev. Heather

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

May 2 Planning Meeting



Approve Slate of Delegates for 2023 General Assembly: Five delegates were nominated to represent UUSD for the 2023 General Assembly: Pat Schaeffer, Susan Haase, Jane Miller, Mac Goekler, and Susan Goekler. The BOT voted unanimously to approve all five delegates.

Review/Approve of Phase II (Final) Budget for FY24: Finance Committee Chair Ron Schaeffer explained that there are two subcommittees under the Finance Committee purview that worked on the FY24 budget: Budget subcommittee (expenses and non-pledge income), and Pledge Campaign subcommittee. The Pledge Campaign subcommittee will look at improvements, but may stay with the basic approach.

Highlights from Ron's Presentation:

- Total households pledging: 141 (new high)
- Total raised: \$353,924 (102% of pledge goal)
- 48% of pledging households increased their pledge from the previous year; 20+% remained the same.

Co-Finance Officer Richard Wheeler briefed the Board on the final Phase II budget. The budget total is based on the results of the pledge campaign. The budget will be briefed in detail at the June 4 information session with the congregation. The vote to accept the FY24 Phase II budget was approved unanimously.

Update on Denominational Affairs Article II Rewrite Process: Susan Goekler distributed two handouts: UUA Article II Timeline and the UUSD Article II Timeline. Delegates can submit one amendment prior to the June 5, 2023 deadline. Voting will be electronic and there must be a 50% positive vote to place the amendment on the agenda for 2024. If approved at the June 2023 General Assembly, the (amended) Article II would require a 2/3 vote in 2024 to be added to the bylaws of the UUA. Discussion ensued on if there would be an open forum/dialogue and Q&A related to the proposed UUA Article II Rewrite at UUSD. Susan Goekler stated that there will be a Forum to discuss the Article II Rewrite Process on Sunday, May 28.

Change to Executive Team's Charge: Ellen Lytton requested that the BOT eliminate Board approval of new members as stated in the current Executive Team's Charge. Ellen said that it may simplify recruitment of new members. The Board voted to change ET's Charge effective May 2, 2023. The vote was unanimous.

Safer Congregation Committee's Report to the BOT: Safer Congregation Committee Chair Ruth Lamothe reported that security cameras are now installed, with both Gary Schmidt and Ruth trained on how the system operates. The committee is currently reviewing the Emergency Procedures Manual. CPR and AED training is planned for September 2023 in coordination with Beebe Family Medical. There will be a limit of 20 persons for each session. Greeters and Ushers will be invited to participate.

The BOT Planning Meeting takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and is a Hybrid meeting. The BOT Business Meeting takes place on the 4th 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

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

UUSD members will have an opportunity to vote for the following candidates for the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Committee at the Annual Meeting on **June 11 at 11:15 a.m.**

CANDIDATES FOR THREE OPENINGS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The self-nomination information for these candidates was sent to members on **May 1**. This information is also available on the UUSD website on the Member page at <https://uussd.org/about-us/member-documents/annual-meeting/>.

CANDIDATES FOR TWO OPENINGS ON THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: The self-nomination information for these candidates was sent to members on **May 1**. This information is also available on the UUSD website on the Member page at <https://uussd.org/about-us/member-documents/annual-meeting/>.

Thank you to all the candidates for stepping up to serve their UUSD community.

Contact LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org if you have any questions.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: KEVIN AND KIM COOK ELLEN LOEWY, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Welcome Kevin and Kim to your new spiritual home at UUSD. Kevin and Kim Cook lived in Northern Virginia until November 2022 when they relocated to Bridgeville, DE. They have been UUs since 1994 when they first joined a congregation in Kent, Ohio where they were members for 12 years. Kim was the founder of a Women's Group as well as Secretary on the Board of Trustees at Kent UU. Kevin served as Treasurer. After moving to Manassas, Virginia, Kevin served as a Board Member at Large at Bull Run UU. Kim was also on search committees for new ministers at Bull Run and Kent UU. Kim will be retiring from her Distance Education Accreditation Commission position this coming June. Kevin works as a subcontractor for the FAA after retiring from the Air National Guard. They have two adult daughters, one who lives in Ohio, and the other who lives in Maine. Kevin and Kim are looking forward to meeting everyone at UUSD.

BOARD COMMITTEE & AD HOC TEAM NEWS

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS MAC GOEKLER, CHAIR

1. Pride Festival in Dover is on the Legislative Lawn (next to the State Capitol) on **Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Free to all including free parking. There will be lots of entertainment and lots of interesting booths. Your UU Delmarva Cluster will have a booth—come by and visit.
2. UUA General Assembly: You can attend the business sessions free of charge. This year the major business items we will be debating are the amendments and potential passage of the updated version of the UUA Bylaw Article II. Below is the registration link including the virtual business only (free one). You do not have to be a delegate to view these business sessions. The opening session is **Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 to 9 p.m.** The regular sessions are on the following three days at 2:30-5:30 p.m. EDT .

<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

3. UUA General Assembly: A link to a proposed Business Resolution (BR) from UU Young Adults is [HERE](#). This BR will be presented at this year's General Assembly. As written, the UUA Investment has serious issues with this BR as it would cause the UUA to lose millions of dollars, and the UUA would have to lay off staff.

If you have any questions, contact Mac Goekler at denomaffairs@uusd.org.

FINANCE
RON SCHAEFFER, CHAIR

We are now ten 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 collected \$11,563, or 3.9 percent in actual pledge fulfillment in the month of April. Our pledge fulfillment through the first ten months of the fiscal year is 83 percent of our total pledge commitment.

Our income and expenses paid through April are as follows:

- Total income: \$297,688 (88 percent of the total budget)
- Total expenses: \$260,610 (77 percent of the total budget)
- Net operations surplus through the end of April: \$37,078.

This is a healthy financial position for the first ten months of the fiscal year. *However, we ask that everyone please keep your pledge payments up to date.* We are only two months away from the end of this fiscal year, and pledge commitments represent 87% of our income, so to end on a solid financial note means meeting our pledge commitments.

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.

A side note: UUSD's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 11 starting at 11:30 a.m. We are proposing an operating budget for the next fiscal year starting in July. Please attend and vote.

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

The June ASK: Contact a policy maker. The Delaware state legislature is only in session the first six months of each year. June is an active time for legislative action. Several bills are in the works that would impact the priorities in UUSD's Resolution of Conscience. You can find all proposed legislation at <https://legis.delaware.gov/AllLegislation>. Things move quickly this time of year, so by the June newsletter deadline, it is not possible to identify specific bills to support or oppose. If you are on the social justice group email list, we will alert you to opportunities to respond. To join the list, send a request to SocialJustice@uusd.org. Contact can take the form of sending an email, letter, or postcard; calling; and/or visiting or joining a lobby day.



Share the Plate offering in June is for Sussex Pride. Sussex Pride works to celebrate, strengthen and support the LGBTQ+ community in Sussex County and the state of Delaware, working through a social justice lens. They focus on arts and culture, health and wellness, social and support groups, and advocacy for our community. They have programs, events, and meet-up groups in support of older adults, men, women, youth, families, and the transgender community. 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. *This Share the Plate is in accordance with our Resolution of Conscience supporting Women, Family, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Justice.*



FREE Social Justice Film and Discussion: *From Selma to Stonewall*: a film featuring Rev. Gil Caldwell, a black, straight preacher and Civil Rights Movement foot soldier, and Marilyn Bennett, a white, lesbian author and activist who form an unusual bond as they seek to find the intersection between the Civil Rights and LGBTQ+ Equality movements. They start out exploring the similarities, differences, and conflicts between the two movements and find themselves in the midst of today's struggles—hate crimes, anti-blackness, police brutality, anti-

LGBTQ religious hostility, queer youth homelessness, and white supremacy. The Delaware Human Rights Commission and ACLU Delaware have secured this film and arranged for facilitated discussions. **The Sussex County viewing will be at UUSD on Sunday June 4 starting at 3 p.m.** Refreshments will be provided. To register in advance go to <https://www.aclu-de.org/en/events/selma-stonewall-film-screening>. In addition to UUSD, Sussex County sponsors include CAMP Rehoboth, PFLAG of Rehoboth, Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, Stonewall PAC, Sussex Pride, and Women's March Sussex.

Opportunities to Show UP

UUSD will be marching in the Georgetown Juneteenth parade on **June 17**. To join us, convene behind the courthouse by 10 a.m. Wear your UUSD t-shirt if you have one. The festivities start at 11 a.m. on the grounds of the Richard C. Allen school, 316 S. Railroad Avenue, Georgetown. In Lewes, Juneteenth events will be on June 24 downtown, in the afternoon.

Pride Day will be held on the lawn of the Delaware Legislative Hall on Saturday, June 10. The Delaware Cluster of UU Congregations will have a booth. If interested in helping to staff the booth, contact SocialJustice@uussd.org.

Upcoming Opportunities - Save the Dates

- June 1: Multifaith program on Islam, Georgetown
- June 4, 3:00 p.m.: Film & Discussion—From Selma to Stonewall, UUSD
- June 9-11: Pride Film Festival—Cinema Arts Theater/Rehoboth Film Society
- June 10: Pride Day, Legislative Hall, Dover
- June 17: Juneteenth, Georgetown. Parade line up at 10 a.m.
- June 24: Juneteenth, Lewes

UUSD EVENTS

June 1, 10-11 a.m., "Still Time," UUSD 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, we'll 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.

Saturday, June 3, Memoir Writing Affinity Group, 10 am-Noon, UUSD: June 3: "The Journey is the Reward" is a Tao saying. Seeking connections and personal growth? Ours is a growing writing-conversational community, so please join us. We are exploring turning points in our lives. "A turning point is a specific, significant moment when something begins to change." Sometimes we realize at the time and sometimes only later that an event, small or large, was more important than we knew. So, we delve into our histories, our worlds, our spiritual paths. Mining these golden discovery nuggets is exactly how we get to know more about ourselves and others. We each have many stories. Some we write. Some we share. Let Bobbi Dunham know you'll attend. Kaz Huston facilitates.

Thursday, June 15, 6-7:30 p.m., UUSD, Drum Circle: Drum now. Beat the Summer hiatus. In deference to summer traffic, we do not drum in July and August, so this is the last drum circle until we resume in September. Our drumming style is free-form self-expression, and 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, the Drum Circle is held indoors at UUSD, 30486 Lewes-Georgetown Hwy, Lewes. Contact Tony at drumcircle@uussd.org if you need more information.

Saturday, June 10, 9-11 a.m., Gathering Area, Zoom, Men's Covenant Group: Ken Loewy will facilitate a discussion of "what was a pivotal moment or event in your life, which you feel had a profound impact on you?" Contact Ron Schaeffer at r.schaeffer@uussd.org if you are interested in joining the Group, or if you have any questions.

Sunday, June 18, 10 a.m., UUSD: The last session of Children's Faith Exploration before the summer break.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY

Blessing of the New Playground



New Member Ceremony



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, Jon Bartels,

Carol Huckabee, & Marty McLaren,

CongregationalLife@uussd.org

Covenant and Affinity Groups (Ad Hoc): Bobbi

Dunham, covenantgroup@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

Ushers: Tony Codella, Ushers@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

UUSD Cares: Kris Acker, UUSDCares@uussd.org

Worship: Jean Charles & Rick Welk, Co-Chairs,

Worship@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

PhotoTeam@uussd.org

Publicity Team: Alice Casey, Publicity@uussd.org

UUSD 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