



UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* - MAY 2023

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UUSD’s Online  
*Awesome Annual Auction*

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

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



Our largest FUNdraising event of the year is coming May 13–20: UUSD’s “Awesome Annual Auction” all online.

Please join the fun and bid on our tangible items such as jewelry, hand crafted items, housewares, new items, and nearly new treasures. If you are looking to get connected to our beloved community, our dinners and events are wonderful items to purchase at the auction.

You may meet at members’ homes, parks, or many other local areas to gather for food, games, or just relaxing and enjoying conversations with each other. Each auction event will provide the date, location, starting bid amount, and a description of what is offered.



An original ink portrait, "Priestley and 22 UUs" by local artist Rick Welk, will be the featured auction item. Welk, a longtime UUSD member, says, "I was inspired by Ripley's Believe It or Not art pieces, which were done in black and white ink. My experience in texturing techniques helped me create this elegant original. The back of the portrait has a legend to identify each of the figures. The dimensions for this portrait are 18.5 x 23 inches, and it comes beautifully matted and framed. I am honored that UUSD is featuring my work in their auction this year."

If you have questions about how to join the fun and how to bid on items, we will have **Information Sessions via Zoom on May 8 at 6 p.m.** and after the service in the sanctuary on **Sunday, May 7 at 11:15 a.m.**

If you have questions, please contact Beth Law or Gwen Johnson at [Auction@uussd.org](mailto:Auction@uussd.org).

P.S. Want to find out who all these UUs are in this Rick Welk's photo? See page 14 of the *Beacon*.

### SPECIAL KUDOS TO UUSD MEMBER AND HALL OF FAME SWIMMER PENNY LEE DEAN



On May 14, UUSD member and Hall of Fame swimmer Penny Lee Dean will address 450 graduates of the Pomona College Commencement Class of 2023. Penny Lee majored in history at Pomona College in Claremont, California and graduated with honors in 1977. She subsequently earned a master's degree in physical education from Cal Poly Pomona and an Ed.D. in education/sports management from the United States Sports Academy.

Civil rights lawyer Sherrilyn Ifill will also speak at Pomona's commencement. Pomona College will confer an honorary degree during the ceremony on both Penny Lee and Sherrilyn, who will also speak at the commencement.

Below is an excerpt from Pomona's commencement announcement, which describes Penny Lee's many lifetime swimming and athletic accomplishments, in addition to her academic achievements:

"Penny Lee Dean is one of world's greatest marathon swimmers. As an open water swimmer, she swam the Catalina Channel and broke the world record by one hour and 32 minutes, a record that still stands today. In 1978, she swam the English Channel, breaking the men's world record by one hour and five minutes. During her swimming career she set 13 world records and was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1979, she was elected to be the U.S. national coach for open water, serving in that role for 12 years.

At Pomona, Dean was a six-time All-American. She returned to the College and coached and taught for 26 years. As the women's swimming coach, her record was 203-79 and included 17 conference championships. The team set 118 school records, 71 conference records and nine national records and included 138 All-American athletes. She also coached the women's water polo team, winning the U.S. Division II national championship in 1993 and helping the program become the first varsity water polo program in the country.

Dean has authored three books on swimming and an autobiography. She received the International Swimming Hall of Fame writer's award in 2014."

Our congratulations to Penny Lee for this special recognition from Pomona College for her lifetime achievements.

### MAY SERMONS

**Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m., "What We Create," UUSD Lay Leader Marj Shannon:** We have an abundance of creative people among us: artists, musicians, designers, performers, crafters, and more. But those people are not always creating what we think they are. And those of us who would call ourselves mere admirers or supporters of the arts are more creative than we might think. Join us as we explore some of those nuances.

**Sunday, May 14, 10 a.m., "Know the Wells," Rev. Heather Rion Starr:** "We drink from wells we did not dig," it is written in the Hebrew Scriptures in the Old Testament. On this Mother's Day, we will reflect upon the impact of three inspirational, incredibly persevering, and under-recognized mothers. Drawing upon Anna Malaika Tubbs' book, *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin*

*Shaped a Nation*, we will consider the ways we and our country are all shaped by those who came before us. On this spring day, we will also celebrate new members through our bi-annual New Member Ceremony.

**Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m., “The Work of the World,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr:** Community is not a solo project. Today, we will do our best to celebrate those who work together to sustain our communities. Transition, change, and leadership turnover are also constant cyclical parts of communal life. Join us in acknowledging all this and more.

**Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m., “War and Pieces,” UUSD Lay Leaders Rick Welk and Jean Charles:** In honor of Memorial Day, join members Rick Welk and Jean Charles and consider why there is a need for war memorials and how long they have been necessary. We honor our soldiers and the sacrifice they make for their country. But we have been doing so for many years. Is our future filled with a continued need? Let us look deeper into the reasons for the losses and the countless lives that are affected by a history of human suffering. We strive to live in peace. May we find it together.

**REV. HEATHER RION STARR, MINISTER**



Dear UUSD'rs,

Here's The Big Question. How do you answer: “What's UUSD?” In the past few weeks, I've had many (even-more-than-usual) opportunities to attempt to answer this question well. We had 34 participants (not including facilitators) in our March 2023 UU Tune Up classes (in person and online); that's up from 22 in March 2022. We're also in the process of finding staff to support both our Audio-Visual Team and to be our next Director of Faith Exploration for Children & Youth. Conducting interviews is definitely an opportunity to try to honestly summarize in brief what UUSD is about. And as many of you know, we have a steady stream of visitors and newer comers, some of whom are familiar with Unitarian Universalism already, and many who are not. So: what is UUSD?

Well, obviously it's a Unitarian Universalist congregation (even what noun we use can be a bit of a stumbling block, am I right? Is it a church, or no?) And how do you describe Unitarian Universalist? If someone new to UUism is directed to our denominational website, <https://www.uua.org>, there is an almost overwhelming wealth of information there. I'm not sure I've lingered long on the words that come up in the top box though, on the homepage that I refer to often for one reason or another. Those words are: “Live your values aloud, not alone. Our open-minded, open-hearted spiritual communities help people lead lives of justice, love, learning and hope.”\* Hmmm, not bad! But these lovely words don't describe UUSD in particular. Neither do our Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles, last revised in 1987 and contained in Article II of our denominational Association's Bylaws. Though they are beautiful and challenging, the Seven Principles are also too long for pretty much anyone I know to remember. The proposed revision of Article II released in January 2023 also includes Seven Shared Values, and it doesn't seem any shorter.

So, if one is trying to answer someone's quick “What's UUSD?” question, drawing upon these materials may well be too much. Our current congregational Mission and Vision statements are succinct, and the Mission statement has a great acronym in NEWS: “Nurture spiritual growth, Embrace diversity, Work for justice, Strive for a loving world”—but this still isn't a particularly specific description of who and what UUSD is today.

How I answer the question also has something to do with who I'm talking to. What are they looking for in their lives and is that something UUSD can or can't possibly offer them? But few people enjoy too many questions answered with more questions.



So. Ultimately, I often come down to something like: “We are a multigenerational community of earnest people who share some key values. We work hard to cultivate mutual respect and understanding for and of each other. We try our best to live out our daily lives with kindness. We strive to develop greater self-awareness and reflect on ways we can continue to grow towards becoming our best selves. We are committed to having a positive impact on our larger world. We are a 203-member, 68-friend congregation on Route 9 between Hopkins Dairy and the new Redner’s, the only Unitarian Universalist congregation in Sussex County. Come check us out!”

As we move towards the summer months (aka Traffic Season), I know that I will be hearing this recurring question even more from summer visitors, visiting family, and friends, and I hope you will too. I hope you’ll be ready and excited to answer This Big Question in genuine words that come from your heart. What is it you want to tell others about UUSD?

I would love to know your answer to this question too! 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). 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.

May this season of longer days give all of us the feeling of spaciousness—time for reflection, for healing, for contemplation, for adventure, for connection—for whatever you are seeking in your lives.

Warmly,



*\*Text used with permission from the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

## JULIE KEEFER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES



Dearest UUSD Family!

Well, it has been seven years in the making and four and a half of those years have been during my ministry at UUSD. I finally graduate from Chicago Theological Seminary on Friday, April 28! I have juggled a lot—a full-time teaching job, my part time music ministry here at UUSD, all the while raising a family, getting through a pandemic, and just trying to stay afloat in life!

First and foremost, I could not have made it through this slow process without the love and support of my wife, Jaclyn and my children, Lydia, Finn, and Noah.

But, I also know, without a doubt, that I could not have done it without the encouragement from all of you.

I especially want to thank the choir for their flexibility of scheduling when I needed to cancel rehearsals for class, and you all still spent time practicing your parts so that when we did gather for rehearsal, you were already prepared!

UUSD is filled with the world’s best cheerleaders, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the love, support, and encouragement that you continue to give to me. Without all of you, it would have been easy to give up and quit.

My heart overflows!  
Julie Keefer

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



**March 29 Business Meeting**

**Review/Approve February Month End Financial Documents:** Co-Finance Officer Kent Sprunger provided a review of the February end of month financials. Total revenue for the year to date is 79%, and total expenditures are at 54%. 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.

**Update on System Warranty from Alarm Engineering:** Co-Finance Officer Richard Wheeler advised that the Contracts Team has worked with Jodi Garvin from the company, and that we do get a one-year warranty with the new system of security cameras. After the one-year period, we will pay \$50 per month for the warranty, in addition to the monthly rate of \$70 for monitoring. There is a four-week lead time for installation of the system.

**Review and Discussion of Bylaws Revisions:** Discussion ensued with Mac Goekler concerning proposed bylaw changes. It was decided by the BOT that information sessions would be conducted with the congregation in the fall, prior to a special meeting to vote on the proposed bylaw changes. The meeting may possibly be held in late September or early October, or whenever the changes are ready to be reviewed. The BOT vote was unanimous to delay a vote on proposed changes until completion by the Governance Review Team.

**Church Mutual Insurance Update:** Vice President, Linda Marsden, advised that our insurance will cover liability for the new playground equipment. Linda will send a copy of the sales receipt to the company. Church Mutual is also asking how many cameras will be installed when our security system is installed. Linda will continue to work with Church Mutual on this issue.

**Affiliated Community Minister:** The final copy of the covenant with Rev. Cathy Rion Starr was signed by all parties (Board President Paul Barnette, Rev. Heather Rion Starr, and Rev. Cathy Rion Starr). Rev. Heather stated that on May 21 during the service, the Covenant of Affiliation and Community Ministry will be explained to the congregation. There will be a Q&A/Meet & Greet after the service.

**April 18 Planning/Business Meeting**

**Month-End Financial Documents for March:** Co-Finance Officer Kent Sprunger provided a review of the March end of month financials. Total revenue for the year to date is 82% of the budget, and total expenditures are at 63%. Monthly income continues to run lower than expenses, but we are still net positive \$43,718 for the fiscal year. Pledge statements to be sent out this week from Breeze; testing and review has been completed.

**Review/Approval of Updated Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF):** Ron Schaeffer and Dara Schumaier stated that there had been some confusion in the past on Christmas Eve over the MDF Policy. It is not Share the Plate, but 100% of the Plate income collected on Christmas Eve is for the MDF. The revision to the policy will state, in part—"There will be no Share the Plate in December."

**Review/Approval of the Financial Review Report for FY21-FY22:** Ron Schaeffer presented the recently completed Annual Financial Review for approval. An annual review of the financial records is required by the Bylaws to ensure that our records are consistent and accurate. Results of the review were "more than satisfactory and fairly represent the books and records of UUSD."

**Clarification of the Finance Committee’s Position on Donations from the Annual Operating Budget:** Ron Schaeffer presented an information paper entitled “Expensing Donations to Third Parties in the UUSD Operating Budget” dated April 14, 2023. It was explained that this is not a legal, regulatory, or a Bylaws issue. A discussion ensued concerning the best way to handle donations in the financial management system. Kent Sprunger recommended treating the \$200 donation to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) as a non-operations expense using non-operational reserves. Kent made a motion to approve the James Luther Adams level of contribution to the UUSC out of the to-be created non-operations budget. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Update on Preparation for the Annual Meeting:** Board Secretary, Jane Miller, will provide to Pat Schaeffer by May 5 all 11 documents related to the annual meeting. This will include the invitation to Members for the Annual Meeting. An email will go out to the congregation on May 10, which is the thirty-day requirement prior to the annual meeting. A second congregational email will go out on May 22, which will include annual meeting reports and information on voting instructions. The information meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 4 at 11 a.m. The proposed FY24 Budget will be discussed, and there will be a Q&A session.

**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

<b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM, MAY 25, 7 P.M., ZOOM</b>
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UUSD's self-nomination process to identify candidates for openings on the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) has ended. Members who submitted self-nomination forms to the Leadership Development Committee by March 31 have become candidates for these openings. Those elected will serve two-year terms from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

There will be four candidates on the ballot at the June 11 Annual Meeting for the three openings on the Board of Trustees. The candidates are Richard Wheeler, Jane Miller, Carol Huckabee, and John Sykes. The candidates on the ballot for the two openings on the Leadership Development Committee are Darlene Sellers and Rand Lytton.

Those elected by the congregation will join the BOT or LDC members whose terms have not yet expired. Continuing members on the BOT are Paul Barnett, Kent Sprunger, Linda Marsden, and Beth Law. Continuing members of the LDC are Donna Davis, Kaz Huston, and Pam Everett. A special thank you goes to all our self-nominees for their willingness to stand for election and to serve our congregation.

Thirty days before the Annual Meeting, information about these candidates will be sent to the congregation and posted on the UUSD website so members can learn more about their knowledge, abilities, and skills to serve in these important positions. A Meet the Candidates Forum will be held May 25 via Zoom at 7 p.m. to permit the congregation an opportunity to get to know each candidate better. Details on the Meet the Candidates Forum will be sent separately.

Contact [LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org](mailto:LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org) if you have any questions.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**  
**FROM NANCY COMMISSO, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**BOBBIE LEE GAUTHIER**

Moving to Rehoboth Beach was never in my plans. I had lived in Marietta, GA for many years, was very active in my Kiwanis Club for 20 years and had many friends and activities in the community.

Then everything changed. I was diagnosed with cancer in April 2009. Radiation and chemo then took over. When that was finally over, I sold my house and moved here to find a condo with my daughter, and to start over. She is the Best Daughter Ever!

I love it here. It will be three years in March since I arrived at this lovely beach town. I am so grateful for all my amazing doctors through Beebe Healthcare.

Coming one Sunday to this church was one of the best things that could have happened to me. I needed something and decided last September to try this church. I became a member and now look forward to each and every Sunday. The people here are so genuine and loving. I keep meeting new people all the time and am thrilled with the warmth and love of this group of people.

I am in remission now and so grateful for every day! My new motto is "I'm here — and here is good!"

**REBECCA FITTON**



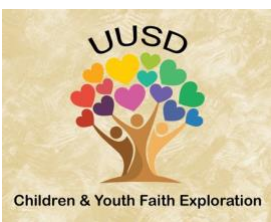
Rebecca says that she grew up in Newark, DE, and after a 50 years' journey, she has returned home! Her 1980 feminist spirituality was ignited by the UUA program, *Women in Religion*. "My spirituality is the bedrock upon which I stand, and I am thrilled to be a member of UUSD."

She continues: "I lived in Detroit, Cincinnati, Santa Fe, and had a short detour in West Grove, PA. My education includes an MA and MBA. My first career was in urban planning; the second was in health care administration. I retired as president of a home health agency. Early in my retirement I served on a number of non-profit boards, including as president of Planned Parenthood of SW Ohio. While in Santa Fe, I unintentionally wrote my story and published *Wave Rider Poetic Journey from Abuse to Wholeness*.

"I am a single crone" of 74 years, and a widow. My family is my sister and brother. As I have moved to different communities, I have created my own "family of choice," Rebecca says, "and I look forward to creating one here in Lewes."

Welcome to our UUSD community, Rebecca!

**BOARD COMMITTEE & AD HOC TEAM NEWS**



**CHILDREN'S FAITH EXPLORATION**

**Children's FE News and Updates:**

**The UUSD Playground:** Thank you to the volunteers who took delivery and are working

on assembly! Just imagine how excited our UUSD children will be when the playground is ready for them!

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

**May 14:** We will practice our puppet show and put the finishing touches on our set. The kids will present the show outside for the congregation during social hour.

**May 21:** We will learn about our resources in nature. Using multiple techniques, Kath Johnson will teach the children how to paint trees in various seasons.

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.

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS PROPOSED UUA ARTICLE II - SUGGESTED CHANGES PROCESS MAC GOEKLER, CHAIR

Unlike the regular UUA General Assembly business where the delegates make all the decisions, this time all UUs are encouraged to become involved. So now is the time to suggest changes, and some of us want changes! I have already used the online form myself. Use the link below to suggest a change. Or you can go to the UUA homepage and search for the Article II Commission, and you will find this link, a simple one-page link plus you can find on this page the proposed Article II. Submit your suggestions and ideas on the proposal now! If you have any questions about this process, email [DenomAffairs@uusd.org](mailto:DenomAffairs@uusd.org).

### Article II Amendment Discussion Workshops

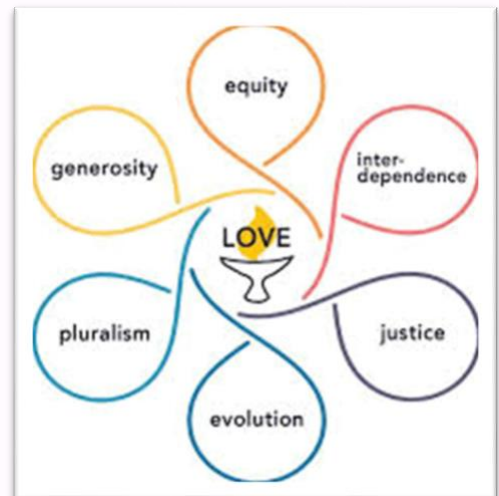
At General Assembly 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which include the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief.

The following Zoom workshops to discuss amendments to the [Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#) are open to all Unitarian Universalists. Whether or not you submitted a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for one or more of these workshops.

Amendment Discussion Workshop #1  
Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT / 5 p.m. MT / 4 p.m. PT  
[Register now for the May 11th workshop.](#)

Amendment Discussion Workshop #2  
Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT / 5 p.m. MT / 4 p.m. PT  
[Register now for the May 18th workshop.](#)

Amendment Discussion Workshop #3  
Sunday, May 21, 4 p.m. ET / 3 p.m. CT / 2 p.m. MT / 1 p.m. PT  
[Register now for the May 21st workshop.](#)





## Governance at General Assembly: Important Dates and Deadlines

- April 30 - Last day to share your [Article II proposal \(PDF\)](#) suggestions and ideas via the [submission form](#)
- May 22 - Final business agenda posted (30 days beforehand)
- May 26 - Proposed amendments to the rules of procedure and business resolution due to the Board
- June 5 - Deadline for formally submitting Article II amendments to be considered a priority
- June 14 - Board posts final text of rules of procedure and business resolution with incorporated amendments.



### FINANCE RON SCHAEFFER, CHAIR

We are now nine 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 \$7,889 or 2.7 % in actual pledge fulfillment in the month of March. Our pledge fulfillment through the first nine months of the fiscal year is 79 % of our total pledge commitment. Our income and expenses paid through March are as follows:

- Total income: \$278,312 (82 % of the total budget)
- Total expenses: \$234,595 (70 % of the total budget)
- The net operations surplus through the end of February: \$43,718.

This is a healthy financial position for the first three quarters of the fiscal year. However, we ask that everyone look at their quarterly contributions statement that just came out to you in mid-April, and please keep your pledge payments up to date. We are only three 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: A special thanks to everyone who pledged their financial support for next year's operating budget. We actually exceeded our pledge goal by 2.3 % with a total pledge commitment of \$353,924 for the next fiscal year.**

### PLEDGE CAMPAIGN TEAM UUSD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS EXCEED PLEDGE GOAL!



As promised, the Pledge Campaign Team completed the campaign in March, and UUSD members and friends came through with a pledge commitment of \$353,924, or 2.3% over our goal of \$345,860. This is the second year in a row that UUSD has exceeded the pledge goal, but this time with several other firsts. In this campaign:

- 141 member households and friends pledged (the previous historic high was 123).
- 21 Friends pledged (previous historic high was 8).
- 120 member-households pledged (previous historic high was 115).
- The median pledge (middle pledge) was \$1,350 (previous historic high was \$1,300).
- The increase in total dollar pledge commitment over the previous year's pledge commitment was \$56,571 (previous historic high was \$33,345).
- The percent increase in pledge commitment over last year was 19% (previous historic high percent increase was 12.6%).

Okay, we understand, "enough statistics!" But we hope this helps you see how incredibly generous you were, and how big a step we really did take together. We simply could not have done this without everyone pitching in and helping to financially move us to this new level of staffing, program support, and facility maintenance. Thank you, and let's have another active and successful year together.

The Pledge Campaign Team: Bobbe Baggio, Carol Huckabee, Marj Shannon, Kent Sprunger, Rev. Heather Rion Starr, and Ron Schaeffer (Chair)

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF UUSD**

Because each person's spiritual journey is unique, there is no "one size fits all" path into membership at UUSD. However, here is one way the Membership Committee recommends for a visitor to progress into membership.

- Complete the Visitor's Form. This form should be completed upon your first or second visit to UUSD so that we have your contact information. If not completed during the first or second visit, you may complete the Visitor's Form whenever you feel ready to disclose your contact information so that you can indicate your areas of interest and receive emails and updates. At this point, your contact information will be recorded in our database, listing you as a visitor, but it would not be shared with others in the congregation except on a need-to-know basis (like to send you information you have requested). Please make sure all information on the visitor's card is readable.
- Attend worship services, either in person or online.
- Complete the UUSD Member/Friend Directory Information Form. This form should be completed when you feel ready to deepen your association a bit by providing us with another level of information about yourself and your family. This information would be included in the Membership Directory and made visible to the other church members and friends (unless you indicate that you do not wish to have your information shared). When you have completed this form, you would gain access to Breeze, our membership database, and the online directory.
- Participate in congregational activities: such as join a committee, join a Covenant Group, talk to people during the coffee hour after services, support fundraising efforts, participate in social justice activities, volunteer to help with CFE classes, etc.
- Attend UU Tune Up Classes. These classes are held twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. They consist of three 2-hour sessions either at the church or by Zoom. These classes help to deepen a newcomer's understanding of the history and principles of UUism, as well as familiarize them with UUSD and how we

work together to make things run smoothly. We strongly recommend these classes to anyone interested in membership.

- Schedule a time to meet with our minister, Rev. Heather Rion Starr.
- Officially Becoming a Member. The last step to becoming a member of our congregation is to sign the Membership Book. These signatures must be witnessed by the Chair of the Membership Committee, or the Minister, or the President of the Board of Trustees. We would like everyone to understand the responsibilities of membership, as well as the benefits, before making the decision to sign.

If you have any questions about membership, please feel free to contact the chair of the Membership Committee, Barbara Barnette, at [Membership@uussd.org](mailto:Membership@uussd.org).

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

**The May ASK:** Vote in your schoolboard election on May 9. Anyone may vote in the school board election for the school district in which they live. You do not have to be a registered voter. The polling places are not the same as in the general election. To see the ballots and find the polling locations for your school district, go to <https://elections.delaware.gov/information/elections/school.shtml>

In the Cape Henlopen School District, the two candidates for a contested seat have differing views about issues covered in UUSD's Resolution of Conscience. Learn about their positions — and vote. Turnout is often low for these elections, and a few votes can make a big difference in the quality of the education provided in the local schools. More information is at <https://votedelaware.org/>.



#### **Share the Plate offering in May is for Family Promise of Southern Delaware.**

Homelessness in Delaware has more than doubled since 2020, and there are no shelters serving families in Sussex County. The focus of Family Promise is to prevent a family experiencing the trauma of losing their housing by helping with rental payments, utility bills, security deposits, and first months' rent to keep families out of a shelter whenever possible. Stabilization programming after initial crisis includes tenancy and financial training, and coordination with other community resources. They support families with children, regardless of family size or composition. Since becoming operational in 2022,

Family Promise has helped 45 families (including a grandmother caring for two teens and a father whose four-year-old has cancer). *"Because every child deserves a home."*

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](mailto:SocialJustice@uussd.org) if you need more information.

*This Share the Plate is in accordance with UUSD's Resolution of Conscience supporting Economic Justice and Women, Children and Families.*

Carolyn Kelly, Executive Director of Family Promise of Southern Delaware, will be the guest speaker at UUSD's Sunday Service on Sunday, May 14. She will share more information about their organization.

## UUSD March Share the Plate Check Presentation to Springboard Collaborative Pallet Village



(l to r: Vicki Nichols with Carolyn Berl, Food Services Manager and Volunteer Coordinator of Springboard Collaborative Pallet Village in Georgetown, DE)

**Addressing Racism through Criminal (In)Justice Reform — A Forum at UUSD:** On April 18, approximately 50 people gathered at UUSD to learn about parts of the U.S. criminal legal system that have sustained racial disparities by disproportionately affecting minorities and those with less income. Representatives from the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, the Smart Justice/Clean Slate initiatives of ACLU, the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison, the Way Home, CTAC, and Network Delaware provided an overview of the link between our laws and law enforcement and racism — historically as well as ones currently specific to Delaware. Some specific areas where legislation is needed are fines and fees, expungement, parole, LEOBOR, and the death penalty. The link to the livestream of this forum is at [https://fb.watch/j\\_XppNbxz1/](https://fb.watch/j_XppNbxz1/).



(l to r: Mac Goekler representing UUSD and UUs for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; John Reynolds representing ACLU's Clean Slate and Smart Justice Campaigns; Lynne Kielhorn representing Delaware Campaign to End Debtors' Prisons; Kailyn Richards representing Delaware Center for Justice; Charlotte King representing Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice; and Pastor Tyrone Johnson, Sr. representing Churches Take a Corner)

Postcards are available in the Social Justice box at UUSD that have a QR code you can use to find your members of the DE legislature. Speakers urged attendees to contact their Delaware legislators in support of these reforms. Contact [SocialJustice@uussd.org](mailto:SocialJustice@uussd.org) for talking points to use on these issues when making contact.

### 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 you are interested in helping to staff the booth, contact [SocialJustice@uussd.org](mailto:SocialJustice@uussd.org).



## Upcoming Opportunities — Save the Dates

- May 2 — S&EJ Committee meeting, 6:30
- May 9 — School board elections; 7 a.m.–9 p.m., various locations
- June 1 — Multifaith program on Islam, Georgetown
- June 4 — Film and Discussion–From Selma to Stonewall, UUSD
- June 10 — Pride Day, Legislative Hall, Dover
- June 17 — Juneteenth, Georgetown. Parade line up at 10 a.m.
- June 24 — Juneteenth, Lewes

## UUSD EVENTS

**Monday, May 1, 3:30 p.m., UUSD, UUSD Book Club:** We will discuss *You Should Have Known* by Jean H. Korelitz. Marie Fletcher will be the discussion leader. Dismayed by the ways in which women delude themselves, Grace cautions women to really hear what men are trying to tell them. But when a chasm opens in her own life, she is horrified by the ways in which she has failed to heed her own advice, Grace must dismantle one life and create another for her child and herself. The Book Club is open to all and meets at church 3:30 - 5 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

**"Still Time," 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.

**Sunday, May 7, 7 p.m., Zoom, "Caring for Yourself as You Care for Others":** When a loved one receives a serious medical diagnosis, medical personnel and family spring into action rallying resources and support. Often overlooked is the caregiver who will provide the bulk of the in-home care. Ironically, caregivers may be just as at risk as the diagnosed of developing physical and emotional problems. For example, caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease can shorten a caregiver's life, and well over half of primary caregivers suffer from depression. While caregiving can be rewarding, it is stressful. This workshop will talk about the real challenges of being a caregiver. Dr. Judith Pierson will provide information about resources for caregivers and strategies for self-care. Dr Pierson is a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Rehoboth Beach. She also works for Delaware Hospice as a bereavement counselor and trainer. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89334726229?pwd=b2JNYmhoS2hoN3Z3R2lpMFFreXd1Zzo9>.

**Men's Covenant Group, Saturday, May 13, 9 to 11 a.m. UUSD Gathering Area:** The UUSD Men's Covenant Group will meet on Saturday, May 13 at 9 to 11 a.m. in the UUSD Gathering Area, and Zoom will be available. Kent Sprunger will facilitate check-in and a discussion of "Hobbies-the plusses and minuses. What they are, and why we do them." Contact Ron Schaeffer at [r.schaeffer@uussd.org](mailto:r.schaeffer@uussd.org) if you are interested in joining the Group, or if you have any questions.

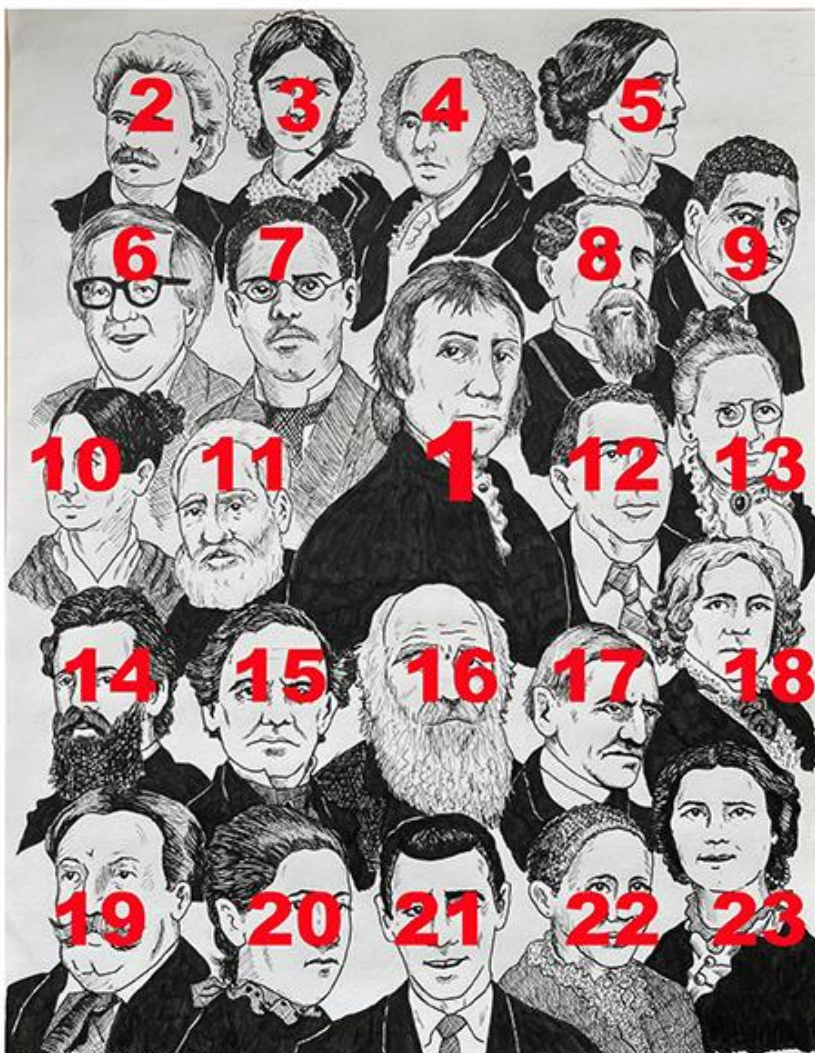


**UUSD Drum Circle, Thursday, May 18, 6-7:30 p.m., UUSD: Drum Up Good Vibrations.** The next UUSD Drum Circle will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 18. Our community drumming is a free-form, self-expressive style and open to all drummers, experienced or novice, free of charge. Extra drums, rattles, and percussives will be available. Hosted by Sue Greer and Tony Codella, the drum circle runs from 6-7:30 p.m. at UUSD, 30486 Lewes Georgetown Hwy, Lewes. Contact Tony at [drumcircle@uussd.org](mailto:drumcircle@uussd.org) if you have questions. Come, drum to give your spirit voice and blend it with a vibrant community rhythm.

**Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Large RE Room, "Living in the Eye of the Storm Amidst Chaos."**  
**Facilitators: Kim King and Linda Marsden:** During our lifetime each of us face major life challenges. This class explores the importance of identifying significant lifelines, creating a community of personal support, and effectively choosing a path from available options. Kim King, author of *Thriving: Facing Cancer with Faith, Positivity and Serenity* will share her journey with lung cancer. We will use Kim's book as a starting point for exploring our own responses to life challenges and how we can thrive in the face of them. You can purchase the book at Browseabout or on Amazon for \$15 if you would like, but reading it is not mandatory. There will be handouts. This class provides the opportunity for spiritual growth and the ability to effectively show compassion for ourselves and others when experiencing difficult situations. The class has a maximum size of 15. Please register at [AdultFaithExp@uusd.org](mailto:AdultFaithExp@uusd.org) by 5 p.m on May 18.

**Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m., Zoom, Meet the Candidates Forum.** The congregation will have an opportunity to get to know candidates for positions on the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Committee. The Leadership Development Committee will send details on the Meet the Candidates Forum separately. Contact [LeadershipDevelopment@uusd.org](mailto:LeadershipDevelopment@uusd.org) if you have any questions.

Here is Rick Welk's original artwork donated for UUSD's online Awesome Auction. Do you know your UUs?



**"Priestley & 22 UUs"**

- 1 Joseph Priestley
- 2 Edvard Grieg
- 3 Florence Nightingale
- 4 John Adams
- 5 Susan B. Anthony
- 6 Ray Bradbury
- 7 Lewis Latimer
- 8 Charles Dickens
- 9 Whitney Young
- 10 Dorothea Dix
- 11 Alexander Graham Bell
- 12 E. E. Cummings
- 13 Fannie Farmer
- 14 Herman Melville
- 15 P. T. Barnum
- 16 Charles Darwin
- 17 Ralph Waldo Emerson
- 18 Maria Mitchell
- 19 William Howard Taft
- 20 Beatrix Potter
- 21 Rod Serling
- 22 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
- 23 Clara Barton

## CONTACTS

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*Beacon at the Beach Newsletter* articles due the 20<sup>th</sup> of  
each month to [Publications@uussd.org](mailto:Publications@uussd.org)

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