

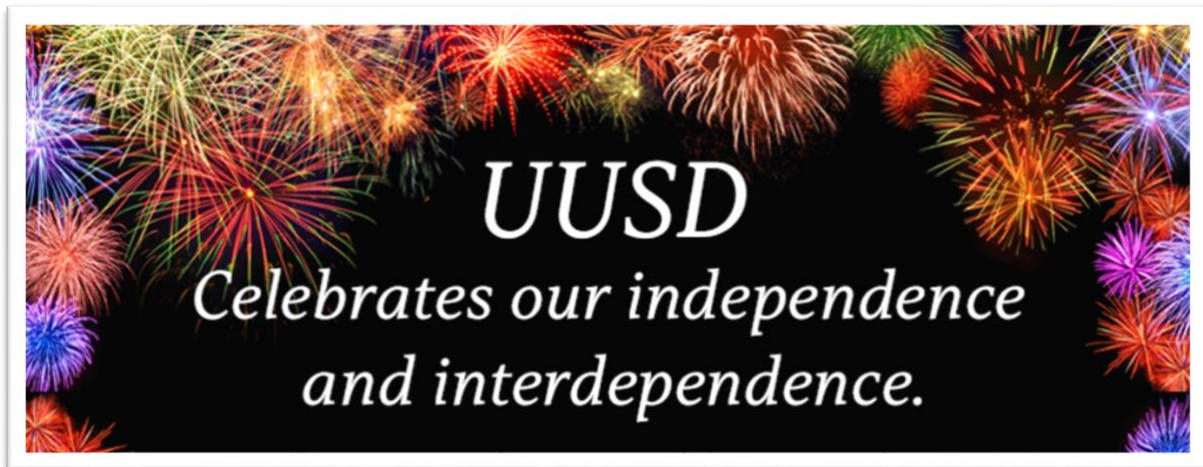


UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* - JULY 2023

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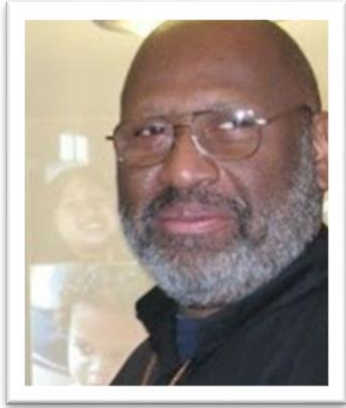
JULY SERMONS



Sunday, July 2, 10 a.m., “Breach of Contract,” Rev. Dr. Ron Parks, UUSD Member and Minister ordained by the United Methodist Church: While we're often unaware of it, and almost always take it for granted, there is a complex interplay of personal freedom and social responsibility that binds us together in community. While July 4th celebrates our nation's independence, each day brings new opportunities to declare our interdependence with those with whom we share the journey. No one can do everything. Everyone can do something. Let's do it together.

Sunday, July 9, 10 a.m., “Independence Day,” Rev. Om Prakash (Rev. John Gilmore): We just celebrated Independence Day here in the United States. There was also a blockbuster movie by the same name. In it we watched Will Smith and others battle against Extraterrestrials who came to all the capitals in the world and tried to take over. Eventually, the President, who had been a fighter pilot, led several fighter jets against the hostile aliens and defeated them. The world came together as one group and made peace. This was an amazing story. Today, since COVID, I wonder if that would have ever happened, or would ever happen. During this reflection

we will explore our hopes and dreams for a united future while recognizing the work that we need to do within ourselves to resist the powers that are constantly seeking to separate and isolate us.



Om Prakash (Rev. Dr. John Gilmore) is a Massage Therapist, a Reiki Master Teacher, a Tai-chi and qigong instructor, a Workshop Leader, and a Certified Coach specializing in Reinventing Work and Spirituality. He has written several books and articles on Practical Spirituality and how we can use our belief systems in creative out-of-the-box ways to not only enhance our lives, but to build communities that will enhance the lives of others. Rev. Dr. John Gilmore (Om Prakash) was a UU minister for more than 15 years starting as a Parish Minister and Extension Minister and moving toward Community Ministry. He is now a retired UU Minister working to promote Health, Wellness, and Healing on the levels of mind, body, and spirit.

Sunday, July 16, 10 a.m., (*Powers That Be: Power Over & Power Within*), Rev. Sue Greer, UUSD Friend and ordained Spiritual Life Minister: Our culture, our world has lost connection to the Power Within, and we live dominated by the Power Over. So, it becomes our choice how we live in the world, connected and alive to all life or disconnected, isolated in our separateness, dominating and attempting to control everything. Power Within calls us to action—to create, to love, to heal, to listen to the voices of the living world, and to stand for all life of which we are part. Power Over separates us from the living world, nature and we live as if we have superiority over everything. Life exists for consumption and control, everything is seen as commerce: the value of human and animals' lives, sex and the use of women, forest and trees, water, and the growing of food. Awakening to our true power, the Power Within, connects us to the grounded presence of our living earth and all our relations. Here we find the source of connection, our strength.

Sunday July 23, 10 a.m., “Choosing Change,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr: Summer is a time of movement, that is, movement of all kinds. What is shifting in your life? What does it look like to embrace change head-on?

Sunday, July 30, 10 a.m., “For All That Is Our Life,” Rev. Heather Rion Starr: It is so important to pause, now and then, and investigate what is driving us forward. Is it all a sense of obligation? Is there joy in it? What fills your spirit with zest and helps you get going at the start of each day? What helps you to replenish your well of energy? What gives you hope and ideas for the future?

REV. HEATHER RION STARR, MINISTER



Dear UUSD'rs,

One of the things that I truly love about parish ministry is that every day is different. It can also be one of its challenging qualities, making my day-to-day somewhat unpredictable. I am well aware that sometimes people may wonder: what does Rev. Heather *do* with her time? Summer can be even more erratic with many people traveling, some Committee meetings on hiatus, my kids on different schedules each week, and trying to squeeze in some of the precious summer-specific outings and experiences that we all look forward to all-year-round.

For a detailed account of my priorities and responsibilities as your Minister, please enjoy my Annual Report if you haven't already—you can find it in the Members section of the website, as part of the list of documents available for the June 11, 2023 Annual Meeting. Or, here: <https://uusd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Minister-Annual-Report-FY23.pdf>.

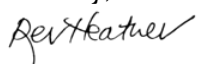
More informally and just as an example, I'll share that today, this Tuesday in late June, I came in to UUSD and checked in with our Office Administrator, Sandy; I said hi to Dar Sellers who was meeting with our incoming Director of Faith Exploration for Children and Youth, Chris McCann, to begin orienting her; I logged on to my computer and began responding to emails and some miscellaneous leftover administrative tasks. I joined our FUNdraising Committee for half an hour to debrief the May 2023 Auction, and then logged on to the UU (UU Ministers Association) Ministry Days Opening Worship service, which was led by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and global organizations with which the UUSC partners. I zoomed home for lunch and to get my laptop charger and some cords I had left at home during our congregational COVID spike last week. I came back to UUSD for the UUMA (Ministers Association) Keynote Presentation with Dr. Xiomara Verenice Cervantes-Gómez (she/her), "a queer and trans Latina theologian who ministers and writes at the interstices of body, race, and community" (from her bio publicly posted on <https://uuma.org/programs/ministry-days/>).

I met in-person with a close friend of UUSD member Nancy Marucci's to process Nancy's sudden death in late May. I addressed a few loose ends with our Office Admin, Sandy; filed the stack of papers on my desk; and wrote this newsletter material. I'm heading home in time to log back on to Ministry Days for the annual Celebration of those Ministers who have served in ministry for 25 and 50 years—one of my favorite opportunities to hear from seasoned colleagues in greater depth. And there's a Worship Committee tonight in which we'll continue going over our Sunday morning service plans for the summer and fall. So: that's today!

Truly one of the opportunities of this work that I most enjoy is the chance to talk with you individually. If you and I haven't ever gotten to sit down and just talk with one another while looking out at the pond, or wherever you'd like to meet, please reach out to me to schedule that. Summer is a great time to do that, or we can schedule into the fall. 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 go back and look for.

I hope you enjoy the summer and remember to gather a small vial of water for our Water Ceremony & Ingathering service on September 17!

Warmly,



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

May 24 Business Meeting



Review/Approve Month End Financial Documents for April 2023: Co-Finance Officer Kent Sprunger provided a review of April 2023 financial statements. Spending continues to be steady. It was noted that the financial system migration from Power Church to QuickBooks and Breeze has been completed. The motion to approve the financial documents was approved.

Finance Committee Charge: Ron Schaeffer and Bobbe Baggio, Finance Committee Co-Chairs, asked the Board for clarification of the Finance Committee's Charge, Item 12, which states that the Finance Committee will "support any financial analysis and plans outside of the budgeting process, undertaken by special committees or projects formed within the congregation." In recent months, there have been two purchases made not

included in the annual budget, specifically the children's playground equipment and the purchase and installation of ten outside security cameras, that did not include the Finance Committee in the purchase process. Ron Schaeffer posed the question, not specific to the two purchases, but in general, how should the Finance Committee be involved? If so, what, when, and how? The committee would like the BOT to clarify. There will be additional purchases in the future that will be special collections and not in the operating budget.

Board Vice President Linda Marsden suggested that the BOT look at the process of setting up special funds for non-budgeted items. Board President Paul Barnette stated that the Finance Committee should be notified if an unbudgeted item is being discussed for purchase. Before the purchase is made it should be sent back to the Finance Committee for review.

Communications Committee Update on the "Beacon at the Beach": Communications Committee Chair Pat Schaeffer stated that the committee will be streamlining publications by integrating the Beacon into the weekly eNews beginning this summer. This will reduce significant volunteer effort and coordination and eliminate duplication in content. The update will be communicated to both the Church Council, whose members submit articles to the Beacon, and to the congregation.

"Searching for the Future Weekend" Update: Board President Paul Barnette will have a "Save the Date" placed in the Sunday update about the "Searching for the Future Weekend" that will take place with Consultant Mark Ewert, over the weekend of July 28-30. Two individuals are needed to "Train the Trainers", and Paul has recommended Jean Charles and Ellen Lytton.

June 13 Planning Meeting

Safer Congregation Committee Update: Ruth Lamothe, committee chair provided an update as follows:

- The committee is discussing having a member of the safety team at each end of the building during services (RE Room & Sanctuary). The BOT will be briefed as the plan develops.
- Ruth participated in an online Zoom meeting with Rev. Sunshine Wolf, Central East Region, on Saturday, June 10 to discuss numerous safety measures and issues. There have been reports of vandalism and protests across UU congregations (13 safety incidents in four months). Some of Rev. Heather's colleagues have reported the vandalism/protests are related to signs and flags. There were 77 participants. There will be a five-hour safety conference with Rev. Sunshine in the October timeframe.
- Ruth discussed various initiatives that the Safer Congregation Committee is working on, including establishing a plan to have yearly fire drills, updating the safety policy handbook, and drafting a plan for a safety response team of first responders.

"Searching for the Future Weekend" Update: Ellen Lytton and Jean Charles will brief the BOT on "Training the Trainers," at the next Board Business meeting. Jane Miller, Beth Law, and Laura Borsdorf will coordinate all aspects of the weekend and work with Mark Ewert as necessary. Don Peterson will prepare a user-friendly registration form through Google Docs. The BOT plans to have a table set up during coffee hour to help members of the congregation with registration for a meeting. Meetings will take place all day on Saturday, July 29.

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Recap: Board President Paul Barnette stated that the meeting went very well and finished within an hour. The 55 slides of the year in review were a big hit with the congregation; everyone was focused on the presentation. Completing ballots began early in the meeting with the remainder of the agenda following allowed time for counting of the 117 ballots cast. During future annual meetings there will be a plan in place to conduct the meeting business while votes are being tallied.

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

BOARD COMMITTEE & AD HOC TEAM NEWS

AUDIO VISUAL SUPPORT

SUSAN GOEKLER

Huge thanks to Dianne Conine, Jaclyn Keefer, and Ellen Parks for the untold hours they have given of their time to ensure that UUSD has the AV support we have needed to stay connected and host events. As of June 30, they are retiring from Sunday service support. It is a pleasure to introduce Cheryl Hickey, who will be our AV support person on Sundays, with a backup person Brian O'Toole. Cheryl has a full-time job with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society and Brian is a backup there also.

UUSD is looking for members who are willing to be trained on our AV system—audio or video or both—who can provide this type of support outside of regular worship. If you might have an interest in such an opportunity, please send a note to AVTeam@uusd.org. If you are planning an event outside of Sunday morning for which you anticipate needing AV support, we might or might not be able to accommodate your need. Please request support well in advance using the calendar request form or send a note to AVTeam@uusd.org. If we do not have available trained volunteers, Cheryl or Brian might be available, but they have other jobs. There might be a charge for support.

COMMUNICATIONS

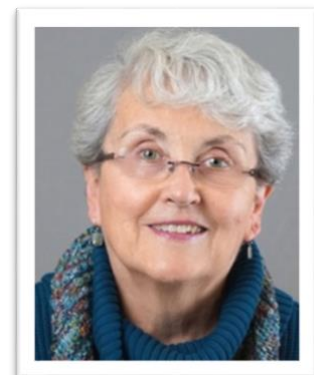
TRANSITIONS ON THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Pat Schaeffer

The Communications Committee underwent several transitions as the church year closed on June 30.



I stepped down as Communications Chair as of June 30 after several years in this role. This change will give others, especially newer members, an opportunity to serve in this leadership role. It has been a privilege to serve my congregation as the chair of this hardworking and dedicated committee. My gratitude to all my Communication colleagues for their friendship and support. But I won't be going too far, as I will remain on the committee working on publications, e.g., eNews, Sunday Service Reminder, etc. and the UUSD Facebook page. While we continue to recruit a new Chair, members of the committee will rotate as acting chairs on a monthly basis (two months for co-chairs). Details related to this transition will be sent in upcoming eNews.



Margaret Keefe, a long-time member of the Communications Website Team, stepped down on June 30 to give her more time to focus on several other important UUSD volunteer commitments. Margaret's primary focus on the Website team was posting and managing the many UUSD events underway and keeping that section and others visually attractive and engaging to members and visitors alike. She also worked closely with committee chairs to update their website information. Margaret also served as a back-up to Alleane Taylor, the Lead Website Administrator. Ever diligent, Margaret leaves us with detailed tutorials to help those who will come after her. Thank you, Margaret, for your contributions to the Communications Committee!



We welcome Elizabeth Page Shepley who has just joined the Communications Committee. She will begin her service on Communications by replacing Margaret on event posting and management.

From Elizabeth: Elizabeth Page Shepley is excited to join the Communications committee as a newcomer to UUSD. Elizabeth's decision to join the committee comes from knowing her strengths and tendencies, and she thrives in committed engagement through service. The best way to learn more about UU faith and this faith community is by nurturing the relationship and understanding its stories. She got her first introduction to the welcoming and accepting nature of UU congregations through First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County

in 2018, and after moving to Lewes in 2019, she visited UUSD only a few times before the pandemic shutdown and has been occasionally dropping in on the virtual streams since. Elizabeth has a background in nonprofit communications along with graphic design and desktop publishing experience. She is a twice published author and avid writer. She is a Reiki practitioner, modern Shaman, and creative living coach offering private and small group coaching, meetups, and workshops in the healing arts. She lives in Lewes with her partner Pete, their two kids, Piper age 20 and Linus age 15. Their animal companions round out the household including Denali the 13-year-old Siberian Husky, Willow the 13-year-old orange and white domestic short hair queen cat, and their new addition Lily the 1-year-old crested gecko.

COMMUNICATIONS
BEACON TO TRANSITION INTO THE WEEKLY ENEWS
Pat Schaeffer

Starting in August, we will be integrating the content of the Beacon at the Beach into the eNews. You will be able to enjoy your favorite Beacon at the Beach newsletter articles all month long. This transition will make it easier for you, the readers. Instead of reading through a lengthy newsletter, now you will be able to read these same articles in smaller bites throughout the month. This transition will also make it easier on the small team of volunteers who create the Beacon each month, often at the same time as developing the eNews. We don't anticipate any major glitches during this transition, but we will be reviewing whether any tweaks are necessary to ensure this new reading experience is a pleasant one for you—our devoted audience. Thank you in advance for your understanding during this transition. If you have any questions, please contact Communications@uussd.org.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS
MAC GOEKLER, CHAIR



This year we again had Pride Festival in Dover on the Legislative Lawn of the State Capitol. Our UU Delmarva Cluster had a booth—next to Peace Week Delaware—both are important to UUSD. We had several UUSD folks there in attendance including Revs. Heather and Cathy with the girls. Also, we are had an in-person UUA General Assembly (GA) this year in Pittsburgh, PA, with a number of UUSD people participating. Next year the GA will be virtual and the following year in person again in Baltimore, MD. These odd years as in person and even years as virtual is the current plan.

FINANCE
RON SCHAEFFER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

We are now eleven 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 \$18,011, or 6.1 percent in actual pledge fulfillment in the month of May. Our pledge fulfillment through the first eleven months of the fiscal year is 89 percent of our total pledge commitment, leaving us \$31,568 to complete our pledge commitment this fiscal year. Our income and expenses paid through May are as follows:

- Total income: \$332,359 (98 percent of the total budget)
- Total expenses: \$290,325 (86 percent of the total budget)
- The net operations surplus through the end of May: \$42,034.

This is a healthy financial position with one month to go in the fiscal year. *However, we ask that everyone please complete your pledge commitment. When you read this article, we will have completed the fiscal year, but you can still complete your full pledge in July by showing on the check memo line 2022-23 pledge.*

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.

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

UUSD shows up even during a COVID outbreak. Even though many UUSDers who usually join public witness events had COVID, a small group showed up to ensure UUSD was represented in the Georgetown Juneteenth parade (see photo).



Our Share the Plate offering in **July** is for **Sussex County Habitat for Humanity (SCHFH)**. The mission of Habitat is to bring people together to build homes, community, and hope. The Healthy Homes program provides repair services and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability, and family circumstances with the goal of improving the health and safety of the residents. SCHFH is also focusing on larger community development and revitalization projects. By the end of 2023 they will be

completing the building of 11 homes in a two-block radius in the Kimmeytown neighborhood of Georgetown. Moving forward there are plans to build in Seaford, Laurel, and Milford. Guest speaker for Sunday, July 9 will be Katie Millard, Director of Development and Advocacy of Sussex County Habitat for Humanity. *This is in accordance with our Resolution of Conscience supporting Economic Justice.*

ASK: In July, UUSD's Social & Environmental Justice Committee joins the UUSD Board of Trustees in asking members and friends to participate in the July 28-30 "Searching for the Future" weekend with UU Consultant Mark Ewert, from the stewardship consulting organization "Stewardship For Us." Saturday, July 29 is a grassroots-up, all congregation workshop.

SAVE THE DATE: August 26: Women's Equality Day Workshop: (Re)claiming Reproductive Justice - Anger to Action, UUSD.

There will no S&EJ Committee meeting in July.

UUSD EVENTS

JULY EVENT DATES

Monday, July 10, 3:30-5 p.m., UUSD Book Club, UUSD: The UUSD Book Club will meet a week later than usual due to the holiday. We will discuss *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. Bobbi Dunham will lead the discussion. In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich creates a wickedly funny ghost story, a tale of passion, a complex marriage, and a woman's relentless errors. It takes the reader through the first months of the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests following the murder of George Floyd. It celebrates family, Native American identity, the importance of community spaces, and people coming together in love and support. It's not too late to order the book to read on Kindle, and it should be a great discussion. Looking ahead, Jonathan Bartels will lead the group as we discuss *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage.

AUGUST SAVE THE DATES

"Still Time" is on hiatus in July and will resume in August—Tuesday August 8, 2-3 p.m. and Tuesday August 29, 1-2 p.m., 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.

UUSD Men's Covenant Group: The UUSD Men's Covenant Group will **not** meet in July. Our next session together will be on August 12. More information about this session will be announced later. Contact Ron Schaeffer at r.schaeffer@uussd.org if you are interested in joining the Group, or if you have any questions.

CONTACTS

STAFF & OFFICERS

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

Director of Music Ministries: Julie Keefer,
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Office Administrator: Sandy Scheet-Robitaille,
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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: 2023 - 2024

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: Carol Huckabee & Beth Law

COMMITTEES/GROUPS/TEAMS

Communications: TBD Communications@uussd.org

Congregational Life: Deanna Duby - Chair, Jon Bartels, Carol Huckabee, & Marty McLaren,
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Covenant and Affinity Groups (Ad Hoc): Ruth Lamothe, covenantgroup@uussd.org

Denominational Affairs: Mac Goekler,
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Executive Team: ExecTeam@uussd.org

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Judy Hayes, Ellen Lytton, and Don Peterson

Expansion Planning: Inactive

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Cloud Society: Ron Schaeffer,
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FUNdraising: Gwen Johnson & Beth Law, Co-Chairs,
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Governance Review Team: Donna Dolce, Mac Goekler, Ellen Lytton, & Pat Murdock, GovRevTeam@uussd.org

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Lifespan Faith Exploration: TBD,
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Adult Lifespan Faith Exploration: TBD,
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Children & Youth Lifespan Faith Exploration: TBD,, ChildrensFaithExp@uussd.org

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

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Usage Facilitator: Jean Charles,
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Social & Environmental Justice: Susan & Mac Goekler,
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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, Elizabeth Shepley, & Ronnie Smith,
WebsiteAdmin@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*