



UUSD Newsletter *Beacon at the Beach* ■ January 2021



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JANUARY SERMONS

January 3, 10:00 a.m., Facebook: Resolutions: Jean Charles, Worship Committee: With Len Bowman's unexpected passing, Jean Charles will revive Len's 2017 New Year's sermon on "Resolutions." Some of us will recall New Year's mornings as a traditional time for rueful regret felt through headaches, a time for turning away from past messiness, and trying to clean up our act...a time for "New Year's resolutions."

January 10 – 10:00 a.m., Facebook: Foundation for a New Day, Rev. Paula Maiorano: In difficult times our faith has always encouraged us to hold on to hope by imagining the new day that is on its way. In Walden, Henry David Thoreau wrote: “If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundation under them.” The service explores both the castle in the air and the foundation required.

January 17 – 10:00 a.m., Facebook: Imagining a Land Where Black Lives Matter, Rev. Paula Maiorano: Martin Luther King, Jr. preached in the tradition of the prophets of the Jewish and Christian scriptures calling for a reformed or new humanity. This service relies on the prophets of scripture to inform the contemporary prophetic imagination necessary to realize a land where black lives truly matter.

January 24 – 10:00 a.m., Facebook: Finding the Funny in Moments, Rev. Paula Maiorano: National Belly Laugh Day, January 24 annually, is the impetus for a service that celebrates a light-hearted approach to living through the pandemic—finding (or remembering) the funny in moments.

January 31 – 10:00 a.m., Facebook: Love Is the Spirit of this Church and Service Its Law, Don Peterson, UUSD Member: In a reflection originally intended to celebrate the Jean Charles Service Sunday in March 2020, Don Peterson explores the meaning of this powerful opening to our weekly Affirmation. What does it mean when we say service is our law? How can we apply this to our daily lives? What is the connection between service and spirituality? In describing the importance of service in his own spiritual journey, he hopes to reveal the universality of being in service.

REV. PAULA MAIORANO, TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

A Message in January



Happy New Year Everyone. In this month of January, which begins 2021, Soul Matters asks us what it means to be a People of Imagination. We certainly need our imaginations to visualize what we and our world will be like after COVID recedes. Neither we nor it will emerge the same as pre-pandemic. If we and it are to be changed forever, let us be active in this transformation by reflecting on what needs to be left behind, and what to imagine for the future.

Gretchen Haley offers these words from “Be Generous with your Dreaming” to guide us into the new year.

Cast your vision here
in the middle of the hardest moment
the turning of the new year –
this life with so much worth
saving, this fragile faith –

For the children born
now, into the world as it is
with the threat of war and whole continents burning
still, while the memory lingers
of holidays chaotic
and miraculous

into this day,
offer the vision you’ve
tried to talk yourself down from,
your wildest dream,
your audacious aims,
the beauty that whispers to you
to follow, and build, and become

For this world coming undone
by distraction, and greed
and fear – this world
divided by made-up borders

fake fights
and all that needs forgiveness –

Here, stir up your steadfast hope
your resolute clarity of what remains
possible – be generous
with your dreaming
and brave –

All paths to the future
are born in this courage
of imagination – this willingness
to shed, to salvage, to
start again
to be this blessing
for each other
to be this blessed.

(Rev. Paula was granted online permission for this poem.)

May you be the blessing and the blessed. Rev. Paula

JOANNE SALTZBERG – BOARD PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We begin this year with hope on the horizon; real hope that some of the change that we have craved, for what feels like forever, is coming. For the first time since the drug-hazed 1960's, a syringe graphic is no longer a warning about substance abuse, but a symbol of an ending to a pandemic that has shook us every way but loose.

On January 20, there will be a woman on the podium, who is not there to gaze adoringly at her husband during his swearing-in, but will be there to be sworn in as the first woman Vice-President of the United States. As the 7-year-old daughter of my former Bangladeshi intern, whose dad is African American, said after the election, “Oh mommy, she is just like me.” A long time coming, but finally this first step into a last frontier.

As a congregation we faced a most turbulent time determined to remain connected, to meet each of our needs, to remain financially sound, to have a healthy ministerial transition, and to call a Settled minister. We did that; we found ways to rise, together. We are strong and ready for the future.

Before anyone intones that there is still a long road ahead globally and here at home, let us savor that we survived and thrived together, that the pandemic will end, and a woman of color will be Madame Vice-President in an Administration that better reflects our values and principles as Unitarian Universalists. I lift my heart up in gratitude for all that we have left after so much loss.

Hope is on the horizon. Mine is that before this year ends, we will be physically together in our sanctuary after an unfettered hug fest. May it be so. Until then,

My heartfelt wishes for your peace and health,
Joanne

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2020 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER.**

WELCOME ELLEN AND KEN LOEWY TO UUSD
— DONNA DAVIS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Welcome Ellen and Ken Loewy to UUSD! Ellen and Ken moved to Millville in July from Long Island, NY. Both Ellen and Ken were born and raised in NY, Ken in the Bronx, and Ellen in Manhattan. Ken retired in 2018 after a long career with the US Tennis Association, most recently as Facilities Manager. Ellen retired in 2020 after 28 years in Education, initially as a School Psychologist and most recently as the Director of Special Education for children ages 3-21.

While Ellen and Ken are new to living in the area, they first came here when their daughter attended the University of Delaware. They fell in love with the area immediately and decided they wanted to retire here, provided there was a local UU congregation they could join. They searched and found UUSD, and that sealed the deal!

Ellen notified her employer early in 2020 that she was going to retire, not knowing she would be finishing work in June and moving in July all during the pandemic! While 2020 might have provided additional challenges with moving to a new area, they have found wonderful neighbors who they have been able to meet and get to know while social distancing.

Ellen and Ken were long time members of Shelter Rock UU, and Ellen taught in their RE program for two years when their daughter was small. They joined UUSD in October and had the opportunity to meet some UUSDers at the recent Giving Parade. They are looking forward to getting to know everyone better and to getting involved as they get settled in. They are thrilled to be living in gorgeous Southern Delaware!

**LEADERSHIP IN ACTION: JOIN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



Leadership Development Committee
Leadership in Action...Our UU Future is Up to You!
— Pat Schaeffer, Chair

The New Year is finally here! With the busy holidays behind us, Leadership Development (LDC) is turning to the future and the opportunities for UUSD members to fill elected positions on the Board of Trustees and LDC starting July 1, 2021. We call this annual campaign: ***“Leadership in Action...Our UU Future is Up to You!”*** At the Annual Meeting in June 2021, the congregation will elect three members for the Board of Trustees and two members for the Leadership Development Committee. Those elected will serve two-year terms from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

UUSD elects Board and LDC members by ***self-nomination***. The ***self-nomination*** approach, which the congregation approved several years ago, is transparent and democratic. Any UUSD member interested in serving in an elected leadership position on the Board of Trustees or the Leadership Development Committee can self-nominate.

Leadership Development is responsible for managing the self-nomination process and the election. This work is organized under LDC's *Guided Pathways: From Member to Mentor*, a model we shared in the December *Beacon at the Beach* newsletter.

Here is what you can expect in the months ahead:

1. **January – March:** LDC will send a special email to the congregation in late January with additional information about the self-nomination process, including the self-nomination form and descriptions of the positions on the Board and Leadership Development.
2. **February – March:** LDC will hold interactive informational sessions on Zoom about serving on the Board of Trustees and Leadership Development. The self-nomination process will close at the end of March. Everyone is welcome to join these sessions and learn more about the process.
3. **April – May:** LDC will share information provided by the self-nominees to the congregation.
4. **June:** The congregation will vote at the Annual Meeting in June for those they want to serve on the Board and in LDC positions for the 2021-2022 terms.

This is an exciting time to consider becoming an elected leader at UUSD. We have many new opportunities and challenges in the coming year...the hope for an end of a raging pandemic that has kept us physically isolated and distanced...and the hope for a new settled minister to join our loving community later this year.

Please become involved in this process. Consider becoming an elected leader at UUSD and sharing your experience, talents, and dedication with your loving community. For more information, contact the Leadership Development Committee at LeadershipDevelopment@uussd.org.



BOARD COMMITTEE NEWS

A HUMANIST VIEW HUMANISM BRINGS HOPE IN 2021 — Charles Bittner, UUSD Humanism Study Group

Humanism is a hopeful and positive way of living. In the coming months, the UUSD Humanism Study Group will be reading and discussing writings on how we can live a positive life in our time. We will be partnering with Humanists of Southern Delaware, the local chapter of the American Humanist Association, in these meetings (email: hello@HumanistsofSDelaware.org). As in our past meetings, we expect to learn from each other and inspire each other to live a positive and hopeful life.

We will be reading from two sources: “The Promise of Humanism,” an article on the website of the American Humanist Association (<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/the-promise-of-humanism/>) written by Fred Edwords and “Staying Sane in a Crazy World,” a book by Sherwin T. Wine. Both readings will challenge us to help each other develop a positive outlook and to live in a hopeful way as we face pessimism and disappointment in our world. We certainly have experienced a lot of those reactions in the past year, and we need to prepare for more ups and downs in the new year.

As we approach major changes in our federal government, we can be hopeful because Humanist values and principles are being espoused by our newly elected and appointed officials. They promise to drive our country forward in a positive direction. The new administration is celebrating professionalism, science, diversity, and respect for others. They are committed to reducing the growing disparity in criminal justice and personal wealth as well as opening dialogue between those with major differences. These goals reflect both Unitarian Universalist principles and Humanist values.

Similarly, the medical professions are tirelessly helping us through the worldwide pandemic and giving us hope that science and human collaboration will lead us back to life without lockdown culture. On top of this, many visionaries are predicting that there will be significant benefits that flow from changes in the way we live during the pandemic.

Humanism, with its emphasis on action for the individual and common good, with its quest for finding beauty in the world, and with its efforts to link passion with reason, supports these evolving realities. Look at the Humanist Manifesto III (<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto3/>) to find the principles that are common to Humanists throughout the world.

The UUSD Humanism Study Group will meet on **Zoom on January 20 at 4:00 p.m.**, after the noon time inauguration of our new president and vice president. Our February and March meetings will discuss “Staying Sane in a Crazy World.” Email us at Humanists@uussd.org for the link to join either meeting. All interested people are welcome to listen and consider sharing at these meetings. Come join us! For more on the UU Humanist view, go to the UU Humanist Association website at <http://www.huumanists.org/>.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
UPDATE ON UUSD FINANCES
— Ron Schaeffer, Chair

As of the end of November, we continue to maintain a positive financial position with 60% of the pledged income already paid. Our total income and expenses paid through November are as follows:

- Total income through November 30 – \$186,328 (67% of the total budget)
- Total expenses paid through November 30 – \$96,730 (35% of the total budget)
- The net surplus in the budget after five months – \$89,599 (32% of the total budget).

Given the uncertain circumstances we continue to face with virtual services and no clear picture as to when the pandemic will be fully controlled, this is a comforting financial status to be in. We have initiated our mid-year budget update to look at our financial situation in January after six full months in operation, and we will make a recommendation to the Board by the end of January for any adjustments for the remainder of the fiscal year.

One thing remains clear at this point, we will be dependent on pledge income to make our budget by the end of the year, so we ask everyone to please try to keep their pledge commitments, if possible. We are so grateful for the generosity of UUSDers.

We hope this information is helpful to you, and we hope you recognize that we are working to maintain UUSD's financial stability through this exceedingly difficult time. We welcome your questions and comments and thank all our members and friends for their generous and continued financial support during this challenging time.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
JANUARY SHARE THE PLATE: LIGHTHOUSE FOR BROKEN WINGS

— Susan & Mac Goekler, Co-Chairs

The Shelter being run by Toni Short's organization *Lighthouse for Broken Wings* is asking for help with meals. Because of COVID-19, meals must be individually packaged, so using a restaurant is the most efficient way without being able to congregate and prepare food. However, buying meals for the 50+ people served daily is too much for most covenant groups. Therefore, the Share the Plate offering in January will go toward purchasing meals that UUSD members can deliver to the shelter that houses women, children, and families. You can contribute online through the UUSD website at [Donate](#) 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.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
UU SERVICE COMMITTEE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

— Susan and Mac Goekler, Co-Chairs

It is time again to wind up for our annual Guest at Your Table (GAYT) program. We will close the book on this collection in early January 2021. Although we will not be collecting in person this year, there are many ways to make your generous donation. All Guest at Your Table donations qualify for UUSC membership. And remember that once again the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock will match all individual donations of \$150 or more.

Ways to Participate in Guest at Your Table (In Order of Choice):

1. ***Preferred - Donate Directly Online at:*** uusc.org/givetoguest: Be sure to add "UUs Southern Delaware" in the line for **Congregation**.
2. ***Donate by Mail:*** Make checks payable to "UUSC" with "**Guest**" or "**GAYT**" in the **memo line** and add a note to indicate your congregation is **UUs Southern Delaware** (so UUSD gets credit for the donation). **Mail to: UUSC • PO Box 808 • Newark, NJ 07101-0808**. If you want us to mail the check in, send it to the church, and we will take care of it including the congregational notice.
3. ***Donate online via UUSD:*** Click on the [Donate](#) button (upper right corner of the homepage). Use the "**OTHER**" box and **add GAYT in the Comment box**. The full amount of your donation will go to Guest at Your Table.

If you would like to make your own collection box and have access to all the material we normally hand out, visit <https://www.uusc.org/resources/congregations/guest-at-your-table/>. **Note:** Please do not turn in any collected cash to UUSD. Make your donation by one of the methods listed above. If you have any questions, please contact Mac Goekler at SocialJustice@uussd.org.

IN MEMORY OF LEN BOWMAN

Long time UUSD member and friend, Len Bowman, passed away on Sunday, December 27, 2020 from complications of surgery. He will be sorely missed.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020



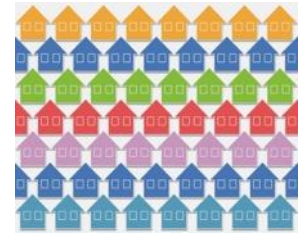
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January — Survey Sez



February — Waves of Love Cabaret



March — Pledge Campaign:
It Takes a Village



April — Fundraising Makes &
Delivers Masks



May — S&EJ Film: The Human Element



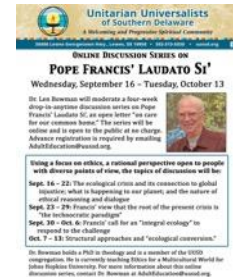
June — UUSD Bids
Farewell to Rev. Michelle



July — Ministerial Search Committee
Begins Work



August — Giving Parade for
Community Resources & Abriendo Puertas



September — Adult Education:
Laudato Si'



October — Fifth Anniversary of UUSD's
Dedication (First Outdoor Service)



November — Pot of Gold Fundraising



December — UUSD Cares Children's
Giving Parade

CONTACTS

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(Direct all bookkeeping, pledge data requests, and related financial matters to David Dagenais, Finance Officer at BOTFinanceOfficer@uussd.org)
Nursery Teacher: Rebecca Taylor (on temporary layoff)

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President: Joanne Saltzberg, BOTPresident@uussd.org
Vice President: Mac Goekler, BOTVicePres@uussd.org
Finance Officer: David Dagenais,
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Secretary: TBD
Members: Alice Casey, Claire O'Meara, Marj Shannon

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Directory changes for contact information to
DirectoryUpdates@uussd.org
Beacon at the Beach Newsletter articles due the 20th of
each month to Pat Schaeffer
Publicity requests to Pat Schaeffer
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