

The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County**

1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ 07860

Programs for May 2026

Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30.

Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs are online at

meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw or by phone at 478-308-5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

May 3 - "Equity and the Higher Law"

With Equity, the sixth of our UU shared values, we declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion. What do we do if our government's laws fall short of our deeply held values? Led by Mary Tiebout.

May 10 - "Change And Growth"

One of life's constants is that things will always change. The question, then, is what do we do when they change in ways we weren't expecting? That's where the opportunity for growth comes into our lives, giving us a potential gift toward improving ourselves.

Led by Pauline Nijander

May 17 - "Growing in Beauty"

This Sunday, we welcome new members to our Fellowship in a brief ceremony that will be followed by our Flower Ceremony. Please bring a flower to place into our vase. (We will have extra flowers if your garden is between blossoms.) If you have artwork or a poem or prose piece to share that's related to flowers, please let Mary know in advance. Led by Mary Tiebout.

May 24 - "I Was Only Following Orders"

How far will human beings follow the dictates of authority figures? In the 1960s, esteemed social psychologist Stanley Milgram designed and conducted a series of highly controversial experiments to answer that question. Today's speaker was one of his subjects. Led by Richard Goffman

May 31 - "The Balance Of Justice"

A reflection on the complex nature of justice, and how it must be tempered by love to serve us fully. This service explores the interplay of accountability and compassion, and how justice guided by love shapes our relationships and our understanding of fairness. Led by Denise McCormack

June 7 - Last service of the season and Annual Business meeting.

May 2026
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We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The Quest is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

Dear Fellowship Friends,

We have a big month ahead with our usual great variety of Sunday services plus special events including a ceremony to welcome New Members and our Flower Ceremony on the 17th. We'll also be welcoming to our building a large group on the afternoon of May 3rd when members and friends of Indivisible Sussex will hold their big spring event upstairs and downstairs, with a program that includes a show, speakers and refreshments. We're proud to welcome these allies to our Fellowship building, and I'm sure that many of our members will be there in the morning for our service and in the afternoon. Some of our folks have participated in events on the Newton Green which Indivisible organized nationwide, such as the No Kings rally on March 28.

The founders of Indivisible are Leah Greenberg and her husband, Ezra Levin. Together they have created a growing, visible, inclusive movement committed to non-violent protests in response to any and all threats to our democracy by authoritarian leaders.



I had a chance to say hello to Ezra Levin two weeks ago, because he participated in two panel discussions at a conference that I attended at Yale Divinity School's Center for Public Theology and Public Policy. The center is led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, and the two-day event's focus was "What are the moral and spiritual issues of the 2026 elections?" Attendees were clergy and laypeople from all faiths and from all over the country, and we were motivated by lively music, singing, some old-time Black preaching, and honest conversations in the hall and in the dining rooms about what has been said and done by this administration, often by making statements and posting images of a certain person pretending to be God, Jesus, or, I guess, Dr. Jesus.

The speakers and panelists spoke also about the ongoing wars in Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, and the potential for war in other places. We sang about peace and justice. We promised to keep on walking, keep on marching, keep on telling the truth and calling out the lies, and to keep the faith, whatever our faith may be grounded in.

It's hard to believe that it's nearing the end of April. We're finally getting the rain that April promises...and as my mom would say when we'd come home from school soaking wet from our walk, "We need the rain!"

With great love and thanks to you all, and our prayers for peace...

Mary T.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Dear Friends,

As the days grow longer and the world around us blooms, our fellowship is also blooming with new energy and excitement. Spring is a time of renewal, and we have a wonderful lineup of events coming up this month to celebrate our community, welcome new faces, and look toward our shared future.

Spring Fling Luncheon

Remember the Spring Fling Luncheon and auction is Saturday, May 16. This gathering is a beloved tradition where we break bread together, enjoy the warmth of our community, and raise funds for the Fellowship. This year's theme is retro 1960's **Good Vibes**. If you haven't signed up to attend, contact Jeff or me. I can't wait to see you there for good food and great company!

New Member Ceremony

We are delighted to announce our **New Member Ceremony**, taking place on **Sunday, May 17**. This date is also the Flower Ceremony led by our Minister Mary Teibot. This is a special occasion where we formally welcome those who have chosen to join our fellowship. If you have friends or family joining us for the first time, please encourage them to attend. Let's fill our pews with joy and make them feel right at home.

Annual Business Meeting

As we approach the end of our season, we will hold our **Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, June 7**. This meeting will be held as part of our regular service on the last Sunday of the season. It is a vital time for us to come together to discuss our financial standing and vote on important matters that guide our path forward. Your voice matters, and we encourage every member to attend and participate.

Let's make this spring a season of connection, growth, and shared purpose. Whether you are joining us for a meal, a ceremony, or a business discussion, your presence is what makes our fellowship strong.

Andi Randall
President UUFSC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

Our topic for May 15, 2026 - **Technology in Daily Life: Helpful, Harmful, or Both?** If you are interested, join our email list (ufdiscussion@gmail.com) to get pertinent info about what we're discussing. Anyone who wants to join the group is welcome. Not all members are UU, and we encourage people of the community to join.

Our group web page URL is <https://www.uunewtonnj.org/index.php/discussion-group>.

Fellowship Space Available

If you or a group is looking for a space to meet, please consider the availability of the Fellowship building, which can be reserved for a donation. Please contact Phil Schaming to inquire about available dates.

Lunch Bunch

Our next Lunch Bunch will be announced via email to those that regularly attend.

Annual Picnic

The date of the Annual Picnic is June 13, and thanks to Jim Kasprzak for organizing it. More info will appear in the Quest June issue.

Spring Fling

Saturday May 16th at Noon to 3pm. See flyer on page 6.

Deadline to have Donations Forms May 3rd.

UU FaithAction NJ - Join Us

We invite UU FaithAction NJ supporters and friends to gather for just one hour on the first and third Fridays of each month to take action and experience the joy and power of community.

Join us on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94313960594?pwd=OTFDdUdocmY1ckZNZFRyemp6V2NiZz09>

For more information about UU FaithAction NJ, visit our website: uufaithaction.org

Contact Chris Dunbar for further insights into this program.

UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$100 supermarket gift cards each month. Help the Fellowship earn 5% of each card purchased directly from the store, at no cost to you.



RaiseRight continues to offer the Fellowship a wonderful way to raise needed funds as you shop. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards that you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to www.raiseright.com. Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program. Act Now!

INDIVISIBLE SUSSEX PRESENTS

“LIFT EACH OTHER UP!”



A PERFORMANCE EVENT AND BAKE SALE

celebrating and supporting our mission to organize for peaceful advocacy of our planet, our democracy, and our communities.

Suggested Entry Donation: \$10 - \$100

All funds raised will be poured back into Indivisible Sussex.

At the Unitarian Fellowship 1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD 2026 @ 2:00 PM

FEATURING THE MUSICAL TALENTS OF:

*Maribyrd
Tim Carbone
Chris Banjo*

*Kathy Moser
Don Elliker
...and more!*



Pre register if possible at this link: <https://forms.gle/yP6HTb7J6DTuqbF36>

UUFSC SPRING FLING



Back to the 60s
SATURDAY, MAY 16th
NOON-3:00 P. M.

Groovy Lunch & Live Auction

\$20 Donation at the Door

Bring a friend!

Tie dye optional-- Far Out!!

***Mission Statement of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County***

**We seek to nourish the spirit;
to foster peace, justice, diversity and understanding
in our community and the world;
and to cherish and sustain the earth and the web of life.**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

President: Andrea (Andi) Randall

Vice-President: Phil Schaming

Treasurer: Stu Feldstein

Secretary: Christine Dunbar

Quest Editor: Phil Schaming

Editor's Note:

There will be a June issue listing the June 7 service information, summer picnic, rummage sale date and info, and any other items of interest.