



**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship of  
Sussex County**

All Are Welcome

# **The Quest**

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County**

**1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ 07860**

**Volume 62, No. 2**

## **Programs for October 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  
<https://meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw> or by phone at 478-308-  
5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

**October 4, 2026 - “For the Feast of St. Francis”**

A celebration of St. Francis, Noah, a hare, of our beloved four-legged family members, our finned and feathered friends, and all the animals of the oceans, forests, soil and sky. Led by Mary Tiebout.

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## **October 11, 2026 - “Reclaiming the Spirit in Me”**

An account of a purposeful, 6,500-mile cross-country journey and how it connected to my understanding of the cosmos, of the past. Originally pinned to a conference for commitment's sake, the journey was undertaken to witness, to deliberately stop and pay attention—to the landscapes and all that they entail along the way—cultures, life, and wonder—calling to mind the truth, “seek and you shall find,” and expanding my worldview and the inherent connections that are integral to being alive. Presented by Denise McCormack, M.Ed.

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## **October 18, 2026 - “The ‘Mad Farmer’ of Kentucky”**

Wendell Berry sang to us through his poetry and called to our better natures through his prose, urging us to know what we in this nation are losing, and what we still have that we must hold onto. He gives us hope on the condition that we strengthen our human bonds and return to an older vision of humanity – to live together as people of the earth. Led by Mary Tiebout.

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# **October 25, 2026 - “Homer’s Odyssey: Homeward Bound”**

A popular filmmaker retells a story so familiar to our culture, reactivating our imaginations and compelling us to redefine, for the hundredth time, the meaning of hero and heroism, of God and gods, of faith, fate, and returning to the beginning. Each new retelling of the adventures and travails of Odysseus, that man of many changes, struggling across the wine-dark sea, inspires a new generation of listeners to wrestle with the ancient questions. Presented by Richard Goffman.

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## **Minister's Message**



**Pipersville Clouds**

Dear Fellowship Friends,

I'm waiting to hear back from representatives of the graphic artist, Mike Peters, regarding my request for permission to include on this page a "Mother Goose and Grimm" cartoon with a 1997 copyright date that I found in a folder. In my email, I said that the cartoon is a perfect segue between last week's sermon – about dogma, or the lack thereof, and issues of today that call UUs to respond with love, hope and courage – and this Sunday's service in which we'll celebrate animals and the legendary ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi.

If permission does not arrive soon, I'll bring the cartoon this Sunday and maybe we can get our camera to zoom in on it for folks who join us online.

Included in last Sunday's order of service were web addresses for three UU organizations that might be interesting for anyone who would like to team up with UUs – statewide or nationally – on responses to current issues and events.

[uufaithaction.org](http://uufaithaction.org)      [uua.org/hashtag/uuthevote](http://uua.org/hashtag/uuthevote)      [sidewithlove.org](http://sidewithlove.org)

The first address is for UU FaithAction NJ, and there you can keep up with what's going on legislatively and in places like Roxbury and Newark where our UU neighbors have shown up to protest peacefully or to donate supplies for visitors (Delaney Hall). You can also sign up for the Friday Action Hour which meets on Zoom and is led by UUFANJ Director, Rev. Charles Loflin. Every Friday we receive updates on legislative matters and information for making calls, sending emails or writing letters regarding issues where a massive public response could make a big difference.

People who would like information about phone-banking in swing states during the next five weeks might want to check out the UU

the Vote website, and for news about issues nationwide that you might want to learn more about – how UUs are responding and where our help might be needed – there’s always up-to-date information from the UUA’s Side With Love movement.

All of this is to say that we are in this together, and as I’m more encouraged to show up when I know that others who share our values are in this with us, I have hope that together, we can change the direction of where “the arc of the moral universe”, as Unitarian minister Theodore Parker described, is bending.

With tremendous thanks and great hopes,

Mary T.

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## **Message From The President**



Dear Friends and Fellow Unitarians,

As you dodge the wind and rain of the recent Nor'easter, have you noticed the leaves beginning to turn and the air growing a bit crisp? Fall, with its colorful falling leaves, shows how nature moves from season to season. It reminds me that change is natural, that letting go makes room for rest and then new growth.

The Fellowship is also experiencing change. This past month, we welcomed new faces to our Sunday gatherings. Our programs continue to reflect the diversity of thought and spirit that makes Unitarian fellowship so rich. From our guest speakers and the spiritual leadership of our minister to our discussion group - from community service projects to our annual fundraisers- there are many ways to engage with and deepen your connection to this congregation. I encourage you to step outside your comfort zone and try something new.

## REMINDER: OCTOBER LUNCH BUNCH

Our October Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, October 21 at Pikul Thai, the new Thai restaurant just up the street from the fellowship. If you haven't had a chance to try their kitchen, this is your opportunity — and we support a small local business in the process. To reserve your spot for this adventure, email me at [alsrandall@yahoo.com](mailto:alsrandall@yahoo.com) or text/call 973-903-7823 by October 18 and ensure the kitchen is prepared for our group. Whether you're a longtime Lunch Bunch regular or considering joining for the first time, you're warmly welcome. Nothing is required beyond showing up and sharing good food and conversation.

Andi

## Announcements

### DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets monthly on the third Friday at 10am. The public is welcome to join along with the discussions. The average attendance is a dozen friendly people that enjoy the give and take of thoughts and ideas.

The schedule for the upcoming months is as follows:

- October 16 - Should we have age limits on President, Congress and Judges?
- November 20 - Is being virtuous good for you – or just people around you?

Additional topics will be selected soon.

### **FOOD BANK COLLECTION**

And please remember, we begin our month-long collection of donations to Sparta Food Bank's pet food shelves October 1st. This is supporting the Community Food Pantry. All donations of dog and cat food will be greatly appreciated. Please place pet food donations into the bins in the Community Room.

### **FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS VISIT THE 9-11 National Memorial Trail**



Here we see Mary, Mike, Chris, Marian and Marilyn visiting The September 11th National Memorial Trail

## 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**™ 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](http://www.raiseright.com).

Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.

Act Now!

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## **Executive Team**

President: Andi Randall

Vice-President: Cynthia Mackowicz

Treasurer: Stu Feldstein

Secretary: Chris Dunbar

Quest Editor: Phil Schaming

## UUA Affirmation



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 UUFSF. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, [www.uunewtonnj.org](http://www.uunewtonnj.org). Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

## Mission Statement

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.

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| Designed by Phil Schaming 6.1.4