



**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. 1

Programs for September 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

or by phone at 478-308-
5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

September 13, 2026 - “Ingathering and Water Ceremony”

With our traditional intergenerational Ingathering Sunday celebration, we begin a new Fellowship year. Remember to bring a small container of water from your travels, your home, or from another meaningful source.

Led by Mary Tiebout.

September 20, 2026 - President's Service

Rooted in Service: Growing our Fellowship Together.

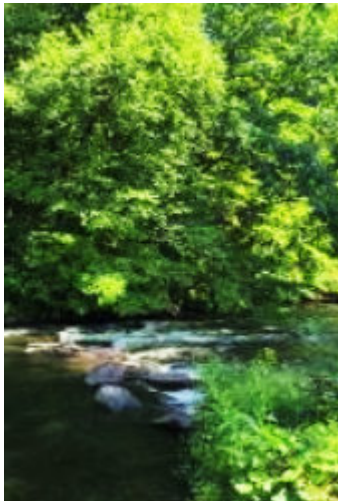
Led by Andi Randall

September 27, 2026 - “Unitarian Universalism: Meeting the Moment”

Throughout our history, Unitarians, Universalists, and UUs have felt the necessity and found the courage to get to take a stand amidst substantial challenges and controversies. How does their commitment to our shared values help to inspire us to claim our power in these critical times?

Led by Mary Tiebout.

Minister's Message



Musconetcong River

Dear Fellowship Friends,

When we return for our first service on September 13, we'll have a chance to thank our Rummage Sale team, our summertime Fling event hosts and participants, our social justice advocates, our discussion group leader, our caring friends, our publicity team, and all who volunteer in the community and on behalf of the fellowship during the summer months when things don't entirely slow down.

The theme at this year's all-virtual UUA General Assembly in June was "Meet the Moment" and we'll refer to that theme during some of our services this year. We might meet the moment by encouraging our legislators to sponsor a bill, by campaigning for a candidate, by helping to serve meals at Manna House, or by supporting any number of local organizations whose work aligns with our values. But meeting the moment might also mean having a day of self-care, a morning of creative work, or lunch with friends. I imagine that the next two months, leading up to and including the mid-term elections, will tax our nerves, our attention, our patience and our stamina. It will be good for us to be together on Sundays, breathing

in the silence, being restored by beautiful music, thinking, and asking good questions.

This year, our Ingathering Service on September 13, with our traditional Water Ceremony, coincides with Rosh Hashanah, the “head of the year” in the Jewish tradition. We will have a chance to reflect on the meaning of the New Year and the opportunity to begin again. Everyone’s invited to bring a small container of water for our Water Ceremony.

I feel so fortunate to begin another fellowship year with you. To newcomers to our fellowship, I offer a warm welcome, and to long-time members and friends, “Welcome Back!”

All blessings, great thanks, and see you in September!

Mary T.

Message From The President



The Fellowship begins our 2026-2027 services on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 AM. I look forward to welcoming you back to a season of friendship, community, and shared values.

Before settling into our fall rhythm, we should celebrate a summer that was truly busy and rewarding. Our dedicated team — Cynthia,

Jan, and Laura — stepped up to co-chair the annual Rummage Sale, organizing everything from event logistics to donation intake. Thanks to their leadership and the spirit of many volunteers who gave their time, the sale was a tremendous success, raising almost \$5,000 for the Fellowship. These funds will be vital as we continue our work throughout the coming year.

Beyond the financial support, the sale was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our neighbors. Every person who purchased "treasures" at the event received a brochure outlining what we stand for and what we offer at the Fellowship. It was heartening to observe the interest in our community. I saw many people looking through the brochure Cynthia created and making favorable comments. Our message does resonate with many who walked through our doors this summer. Hopefully those curious people will walk through the doors again this fall.

Hopefully those curious individuals will come visit UUFSC, and to build on this momentum of connection, we need to resurrect the Welcome Table for the upcoming season. This is a simple but powerful way to ensure every guest feels seen and valued as they arrive. To that end, we are looking for five volunteers to rotate covering the Welcome Table prior to each service. It involves a short time commitment of just 15–20 minutes on an occasional Sunday.

Another area where volunteers are needed is the Coffee Committee, which alternates hosting the coffee hour after service.

If you are available to help us extend a warm hand to our visitors or provide refreshments after service, please let me know. Your assistance can make a lasting difference in how someone

experiences our fellowship and how we all share in community after service.

I'm grateful to the many people whose hard work sustains our Fellowship—not only during the summer, but throughout the year. I'm excited to welcome everyone back as we begin this new season together.

Andi

Rummage Sale Experience

It was a huge undertaking to stage the 2026 Rummage Sale. We started collecting in April and worked right until the night before our opening on August 14th.

We had a large group of Early Birds and a steady stream of customers who were able to find everything in the main space from the practical to the sublime. Laura created a boutique upstairs for the clothes, domestic goods, jewelry and art. Outside we had a potpourri of items to entice people in. Andi had freebie boxes under the tree; and during the final hour, customers were able to fill shopping bags for \$20.

We are pleased to report that The Fellowship raised \$4,777!

Thanks to all who volunteered: Barbara, Chris, Jane, Mary, Richard, Jim, Jenn, Stu, Hal, Susanna, Marilyn, and Donna as well as the family members and friends of our members who donated their time and goods. Special thanks to Mary for her constancy, Laura for the upstairs prep, Phil for the advertising, Andi for new signs, Cynthia and Jan for the flyers, and Stevie for her expertise in guiding us.

Cheers to us for another successful UU event.

Janice M. Peters, PhD

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:

- September 18 - Free Will
- 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.

LUNCH BUNCH

Everyone is welcome to join our Lunch Bunch at Sparta Classic Diner, 80 Woodport Rd., Sparta, at 12:30pm on Wednesday, September 16. RSVP to Mary via email at _____ or by text to 267-261-2090 by noon on 9/15 so we can make a reservation.

SAVE THE DATE

We will celebrate the life and legacy of our dear friend, LINDA HENDRIXSON, at the Fellowship on Saturday, September 26, at

12pm.

Light refreshments will be served following the service.

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 [_____](#).

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

Act Now!

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 UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, [_____](#). 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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