

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2010

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MARK IT DOWN

- **Tuesday, September 14th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Sunday, September 26th, Social and Earth Action 12 Noon, Sonen Room**

FROM DARRELL'S DESK—"THE KNOW NOTHING PARTY RISES AGAIN"

When I hear the phrase "the mosque at Ground Zero," I'd think it was going to be built on exactly the place that that twin towers used to be, if I did not know it was going to be built two blocks away.

Two blocks may not seem very far in Northwood, Ohio or Huntington, Indiana, but in Manhattan it is a long way. That is, within two blocks of Ground Zero there are more varieties of people, businesses and houses of worship than there are in most American cities and some states. We who live near Manhattan and have any reason to go there frequently, understand that one will encounter all sorts of people from all sorts of places doing all sorts of things. The idea of a mosque at that location obviously offends some people. The reality is that it would soon get lost in the great mishmash of activity and be ignored by everyone except those it is intended to serve.

That is, unless you are a bigot, or worse, prey upon the fears of religious and ethnic bigotry for political advantage.

While Franklin Roosevelt said,

"We have nothing to fear but fear itself," American history is replete with political parties, candidates and power brokers that not only pandered to fear, but used rhetoric that increased it.

In colonial days, Puritans were so prejudiced against Baptists that Rhode Island was created so the Baptists could escape persecution.

In the decades before the Civil War, anti-Catholic sentiment ran so high it created its own political party, called the "Know Nothing Party." They believed that there were too many Catholics and others immigrating to this country. Catholics were accused of giving their ultimate loyalty to the Pope and therefore were untrustworthy as American citizens. This persisted for a very long time, down to the candidacy of John Kennedy.

Another form of anti-immigrant fever was directed against Italians in the 1920's, culminating with the Sacco and Vanzetti trial in 1920. While history is still debating their guilt, there is no debate about one thing.

Their trial was used to incite fear of immigrants who had committed the "crime" of being Italian.

Rich and influential anti-Semites like Henry Ford published newspapers and magazines, ostensibly to report the news, but which were in fact a front for prejudice and bigotry. Today Henry Ford would own a cable television station or two.

Charles Lindbergh was able to get away with anti-Semitic views for years because he was such an admired American hero. People like Ford and Lindbergh giving respectability to hatred, contributed to America's slow and inadequate response to the Holocaust.

Japanese citizens, some who had been born in America and had been loyal citizens for decades, endured displacement to interment camps during World War II for the "crime" of being Japanese, justified by claims of national security.

No African American needs to be told that America has a long

Continued on page 3

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

We ask congregants to please arrive and be seated in the Sanctuary before the listed start time of services. If you arrive late, the usher will let you in at the appropriate time or a sign will be post that you use the rear (Osgood) entrance so as not to disrupt the service in progress. Thank you.

Sept 12 **The Sheep Don't Gather Themselves** **Rev. Darrell E. Berger**
Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

For our first worship of the new church year I will address what I have learned from living with herding dogs. That is, the sheep don't gather themselves. It takes some effort, skill, persistence and a bit of obsession.

I never liked the metaphor that referred to Unitarian Universalists as sheep. We are far more like goats, but they need herding, too. My two herders even persist, with scant results, in trying to herd our two cats. This might be the proper metaphor for gathering Unitarian Universalist. In any case I want to talk about what brings us together and the effort, skill, persistence and the bit of obsession required.

Sept 19 **Darfur Rehabilitation Project** **Barkley Calkins**
Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

The tragedy in Darfur continues. Today's service will offer suggestions on ways in which interested individuals and organizations can demonstrate their concern about the ongoing human rights tragedy in this region of western Sudan. Mr. Calkins will also be available for questions and discussion after the worship service.



Barkley Calkins is Director of the Nonprofit Sector Resource Institute (NSRI) at Seton Hall University's Center for Public Service. A former investment manager with J. P. Morgan and Company in New York and London, he also served as Director of the New Jersey program for the National Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit consulting organization of experienced executives that provides consulting services to other nonprofits. Mr. Calkins was a founding board member of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project (DRP), and currently serves as a member of DRP's Advisory Committee. A Ruling Elder and Deacon in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), he is currently chair of the Finance Committee of the Presbytery of the Palisades, an association of over 50 PCUSA churches in northern New Jersey. A graduate of Amherst College, Mr. Calkins was a decorated Marine Corps officer and pilot. He has trained toward becoming a hospital chaplain. He is regularly involved in civic and volunteer activities.

Sept 26 **The New Universalist Christianity** **Rev. Darrell E. Berger**
Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Ann Lang

Since the merger of Unitarians and Universalists in 1961, Universalist Christianity has almost entirely died out of our denomination. Yet it seems to have been reborn, partially within the UUA and partially as an independent movement claiming this part of our spiritual birthright that we have ignored.

Flowers for September services are provided by Donna Blaine.


Church Membership Directory, Church Bylaws, Newsletter & UU World Mailing Lists Updated

As part of joining the First UU Church of Essex County, each member is entitled to a copy of the church directory, the church constitution and bylaws, and a subscription to the church newsletter as well as the UU World, the denominational periodical. So a lot depends on you, our members, keeping your contact information up to date. A new edition of the UU World should be in the mail in the next month or so. If you do not receive a copy by Thanksgiving, or have not yet received a copy if you joined more than six months ago, please contact the Secretary of the Board, Georgiana Hart, at the church phone, 973-674-0010 or at office@essexuu.org.

Social Hour & Altar Flower Volunteers Needed

Many of our church's activities are run and coordinated by volunteers - members and friends who give their time and talents to help make the church a pleasant experience. Would you like to help? We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as hosts for our Sunday Social Hours, held after services, as well as to bring flowers for our Altar Table each Sunday before service. A sign up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board at the start of the year and will be updated frequently. Please sign your name (print clearly, please) and give a phone number or email address. We will contact you to confirm your date. Thank you. You can also call the church office at 973-674-0010 or at office@essexuu.org

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Coffee Hour Coordinators for September: TBD			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm, Sonen	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Social and Earth Action 12 noon, Sonen	27	28	29	30		

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Slight changes of color in the leaves and a more northerly track of the sun tell us fall is not far off *but summer is hanging on with all its might*. Labor Day is escorted in by the 6th heat wave of the season as Earl is threatening us with wind, rain and high seas for this weekend. I trust all will be calm by the time we meet again for *In Gathering* on September 12.

I hope you all have had a chance to enjoy some part of the summer and will be sharing with us your travels to far off and not so far places. The summer break, unique to our Unitarian Universalist tradition, helps to reignite our desire for Community. More simply put it gives us a chance to miss each other and to come back with enthusiasm and anticipation for a meaningful coming church year.

Having a meaningful year requires some planning so, even though things have been quiet for us over the summer, folks have been working. As the R.E. Committee continues its search for a director they have developed a comprehensive plan to provide our RE kids with a religious program using some of our own talent and resources. If you'd like to help out, please let our new Vice President Flore Dorcely know.

Under the guidance of Melanie Axel-lute our choir will be preparing for several Sunday morning performances. Dave Braham will be conducting from the piano. On other Sundays Bill Stafford, Cindy Long and guest performers will more than ably get us through our favorite hymns.

There once was a tradition in our church to have fresh flowers displayed on the table in front of the pulpit each Sunday but in recent years that seems to have fallen by the wayside. Maggie Thompson mentioned to me at the end of last church year that we should start that up again and she offered to help coordinate it. Please contact Maggie to let her know which Sunday you will be bring flowers for the alter. I'll be bringing them for *In Gathering*.

The Celebrations committee has been working over the summer to plan services for those Sundays Reverend Berger is not in the pulpit. Paul Axel-Lute will continue to organize our ushers, making sure everyone has an order of service and the opportunity to put some money in the hat when it comes around.

On the facilities side, Buildings & Grounds has come up with a list of projects both short tem and long intended to maintain and improve our facilities. Bill Stafford, Reverend Berger and I recently met with a prospective part time building superintendent who will be able to help us accomplish some of these tasks. Some, with a little guidance, can be done with our own hands. We will be announcing a fall clean up and work day very soon.

Plans are in the works for the design and creation of a banner to hang just above our stained glass window. With a variety of congregations meeting in our church, each with their own advertising, we need to let people know that First Church is not only alive and well but thriving. The banner would be temporary until we have the funds to do a more permanent installation

On the social side, there is always opportunity for individual ideas and initiatives so, don't be afraid to suggest or volunteer to plan a social event. On October 2nd we will be hosting a screening of the Black Maria Film and Video Festival. John Columbus, Executive Director of the Festival and honorary Unitarian will be presenting a variety of short films. The program is always entertaining and somewhat provocative. So, please invite friends and family. It's only \$8 at the door and includes refreshments. Last years bowling party was a great success and we plan to do another this fall.

As I am sure you all know, a lot goes on when no one is there and it is all well worth it. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 12th and to another year of UU caring for each other and our community.

Peace,

Frank



30th Annual
Black Maria Film and Video Festival
Saturday, October 2
8:00 pm, Parish Hall
Donation: \$8, refreshments included

The Festival promises an evening brim full of engaging work, sampler below previews selections:

Pickles to Nickels - A cardboard world where monkeys steal pickles & shopkeepers find romance.

Missed Aches - Meaningful meaning is torn asunder by cascading malapropisms.

Banana Bread - Droll "AA" fiction film breaks boundaries with an unexpected plot twist.

Breaking Boundaries: The Art of Alex Masket - Powerful documentary by local filmmaker Dennis Connors about a young artist with autism whose pictures are indeed worth a thousand words.

Corporate Art Policy - Tongue-in-check send up of bad taste in one corporate headquarters.

Found: Nothing Missing - A playful ditty about something lost then found.

The Last Day of I.S. Bulkin - An agent of the Heavenly Corporation pays a visit on a hapless guy.

Never Too Late - Two long suffering hotel maids make a decision to tie the knot.

Additional works will be screened including a sneak preview of a animated political cartoon from Italy premiered in the Black Maria's Special Program in Poznan, Poland.

For additional information contact Frank Barszcz at 201-303-1810 or the Festival Office at 201-200-2043.



Murray Grove News Update:

Murray Grove: peaceful, affordable space – perfect for retreats and family reunions

HOMECOMING 2010: A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration of the 240th Anniversary of John Murray's First Universalist Sermon in America

Friday Sept. 24, 7:30 pm: Rev. Michael Dowd, America's Evolutionary Evangelist, will present an oral/musical/multimedia slideshow on "Science and the Sacred: An Inspiring Vision of Humanity's Future"

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 10 am-4 pm: Rev. Michael Dowd on "Passion for Life: Science, Evolution and Inspiration". Plus, an intergenerational performance of "Oh Jonah" by UUCMC; Music; Workshops; Fellowship; Fun; MNY Store. Under the big white tent! (Admission \$20 if registered by 9/15, \$24 after 9/15. Lunches \$10)

Saturday Sept. 25, 6-9 pm: "Healthy People, Healthy Planet: How Our Food Choices Affect Our Health, Happiness, and the Future of Our Planet" – View and discuss the film "Diet for a New America" and enjoy a gourmet vegetarian meal (\$20).

Sunday Sept. 26 - 10 am: Sunday service in the historic Potter Chapel with Lincroft's Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst.

Stay the night Friday and/or Saturday: \$40 B&B per night! Or a weekend package for \$100!

Grove Gatherings at Murray Grove: Musical/Artistic Coffee Houses. Every second Wednesday of the month: 7:00-9:00 entertainment - \$10 per person; and join us before the show for a potluck dinner 6:00-7:00 pm (BYOB). September 8 – Dave Weber, guitarist/singer. This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the *Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission*, in conjunction with the *New Jersey State Council of the Arts/Department of State*, a Partner Agency of the *National Endowment for the Arts*.

Please ask us about volunteering and bartering opportunities.

Don't miss our new quarterly electronic newsletter, the Hand-in-Hand! To receive it, email newsletter@murraygrove.org, or call us!

For information and registration:

Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center

PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

609-693-5558

murraygrove@murraygrove.org

www.murraygrove.org

THE CELEBRATION SPACE

Welcome back to you all. We on Celebrations & Music hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer.

While you were away, we have been busy planning for the upcoming church year. We'll start off with Ingathering on 12 September with the traditional cookies & lemonade on the front lawn (weather permitting) starting at 10 AM. We will then process singing inside for the service that will include the water ceremony. Looking ahead, we have arranged to have a speaker from the Darfur Rehabilitation Project on 19 September, Georgiana Hart will give us her impressions and report what occurred at this year's General Assembly, and Rev. Phil Passantino will return in November. Further out, we hope to have a few of you give your "Most Memorable Holidays", our yearly Christmas Eve Candle Light Service and Kwanzaa service in December.

At its most recent meeting, Celebrations & Music decide to pare down its plans to augment the church's sound system. This was necessitated by this year's budget that gave no funding for purchasing new equipment. It was decided that an addition microphone hardwire input for the choir space was not needed since the Sanctuary has very good acoustics to begin with. Plans for a CD/cassette player and an MP3 recorder remain as a project for this year.

To update you on a related matter, the sound mixer was repaired and returned to the church last April, before Easter, to the great joy of our more senior members and our tenants.

A few new features to our worship experience concerns the Candles of Memory & Hope and our Altar Table. Beginning with Ingathering we will feature a prominent past member or minister of our congregation. We hope to continue this practice at least through our 125th Anniversary in 2015. Also, starting late last year, we started a program for placing fresh flower arrangements on our Altar Table. Volunteers are need for this. Please see accompanying article on how you can participate.

Thank you all. See you at church.

--Gregory Giacobe

Chair, Celebrations & Music

ggiacobe@optonline.net

Book Store & Gift Shop to Be Open Regularly Beginning in the Fall

After periodic activity over that last year or so, please be aware that the church bookstore and gift shop will strive to maintain a regular schedule starting this fall. The bookstore exclusively sells titles from *Beacon Press* and *Skinner House Books* – both UUA imprints. We also stock a variety of items from *UniUniques* and the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Catalogues will be available for your perusal and selection.

The Bookstore also serves as the vendor for the church's UUSC Coffee Project. If you would like to buy what is in stock, or place an order for coffee, tea, cocoa or chocolate, please come by during Coffee Hour most Sundays to see what's available. See you at church.

Share-The-Plate Update

This fall, Social & Earth Action is re-launching our Share-The-Plate program to help local under-funded and deserving charities in the Orange area. Please see accompanying article for details on how you can become involved and nominate a charity. Share-The-Plate was first launched in late 2008 as a way for our church community to live out its values and mission in a tangible way. Each fall and spring, Social & Earth Action will collect and review any nominations we receive, and select one the committee thinks most reflects the church's values and mission. This selection will then be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval. Soon afterwards, after the charity is contacted and the collection period determined, the details will be publicly announced, and collections will begin. At least half of each Sunday's Offertory collection will be set aside for the designated charity. At the end of the collection period, an announcement will appear in the next edition of the church newsletter, tallying the amount for that period's charity as well as a running total for the program.

Belatedly, here is the update for the last year. The first recipient of our Share-The-Plate program was Deacon Jerry Romano of the St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church Feeding the Needy program. The period ran from 1 February to 31 May 2009 and raised a total of \$695.50. Because of various problems, no candidate was selected in time for the fall 2009 period. However, due to a pressing need, our minister asked that we dedicate part of our Offertory collection for relief efforts for the victims of the 14 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and suggested the Haitian Pastors Association of New Jersey as the recipient. The Board supported this move and money was retroactively reserved from the beginning of the church year. The total amount raised from 13 September 2009 through 13 June 2010 was \$1379.00.

In two related actions, a special appeal was conducted for Haitian relief on behalf of one of our tenants, the Morija Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which netted \$243.00. Also, one of our members, Bill Stafford, organized a benefit concert held at our church Parish Hall on 28 February 2010, entitled *Banding Together for Haiti*, which raised a total of \$2044. Of this, \$700.75 was earmarked for the Haitian Pastors Association and an equal amount to another Haitian relief organization, Partners in Health.

In total as of 9 August 2010, Share-The-Plate has collected and distributed \$2074.50 since its inception. This is all due to our church's giving spirit. Thank you very much.

Share-The-Plate Past Recipients

Feed The Needy (St. John the Evangelist RC Church, Orange NJ)	\$695.50
Haitian Pastors Association, East Orange, NJ	\$1379.00
Share-The-Plate – Cumulative Total (as of 9 August 2010):	\$2074.50

NOTICE: Gently Used Furniture Needed for Cloak Room

We would like to make better use of our shared space for our church as well as our tenants. In that vein, we would like to use the newly donated love seats obtained by our church President Frank Barszcz, and make the Cloak Room a more convivial place. However, we need a few more items to make that truly happen. If any member would like to donate one or two end tables and either one or two table or standing lamps – all gently used – please contact the church office at 973-674-0010 or email office@essexuu.org to arrange for delivery. Thank you.

SHARE THE PLATE RELAUNCHED!

Do you know of a local charity or program that's helping the neediest in the greater Orange area? Are they tending to a segment of our society that is usually overlooked by more established charities and programs? Are they a recognized non-profit? Then why not recommend them as a candidate for the First UU Church of Essex County's "Share-The-Plate" program?

Begun in 2008, Share-The-Plate is a program to live out our church's mission and vision – "to be a life-affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and backgrounds come together to provide spiritual and intellectual growth to one another and to work together in Orange, New Jersey for a greater good in the world", and "[to provide support and care for our

[religious] community and the community at large". It's also the aim of the program to promote greater outreach to the surrounding community and to share our resources with those who serve the neediest. Share-The-Plate requires that at least half of the cumulative unrestricted donations made during each Sunday's Offertory collection will be given to a designated charity or organization chosen by the Church's Social & Earth Action group and approved by our Board of Trustees.

The goals of Share-The-Plate are to promote the congregation's stated mission and visions as well as enhancing the meaning of the church's relationships with and among partners in the larger local community, build awareness, learn more about ourselves

and the projects the church gives to, and to develop a philosophy of giving within the church community.

The program is not intended to not displace other regular and special funding appeals. Checks made to the church as part of members' pledge fulfillment, or for any other previously announced appeal (such as Chalice Lighters or Holiday Appeal), will not be included in the program.

To find out how Share-The-Plate works, its requirements and how you can submit a worthy charity, please visit the Share-The-Plate web page (http://essexuu.org/share_the_plate.html) or contact Social & Earth Action c/o First UU of Essex at 973-674-0010 or info@essexuu.org.

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FROM DARRELL'S DESK—"THE KNOW NOTHING PARTY RISES AGAIN"

(continued from page 1) history of prejudice, and of acting on the basis of that prejudice. Nor do Latinos need to be reminded that hatred of immigrants or people assumed to be immigrants increases during tough economic times.

Thus, one ought to be mindful today not just of the "debate" about the "mosque at Ground Zero," but what that "debate" is fueling in other parts of the country. It does not get reported as widely, but several mosques across the country, which have been peaceful and established for decades, have become the targets of protests and demonstrations calling into question their loyalty as Americans and even their right to exist.

An additional shameful irony is that the proposed mosque is being built by Sufis. They are the mystics of Islam, by far the least doctrinaire and about as likely to be terrorists as Methodists. This country could use an introductory course in comparative religion.

The current cover for prejudice is that, while the "Ground Zero mosque" has a legal right to be built, to do so would be "insensitive." Thus pressure is building on politicians to come out against the mosque for this reason.

While I may even agree that it is "insensitive," I do not believe it is my job as a member of the clergy or as a citizen to pass judgment on the sensitivity of

other religions. If I did, it would be a full time job.

It is my job, as clergy and as citizen, to stand on the side of tolerance and American ideals against prejudice and fear mongering. If any mosque or any religion or any organization is found to be engaged in terrorism or any illegal activity, of course it should be pursued and prosecuted. But there is no law in this country against being Muslim, or building a mosque anywhere that local zoning and community governance allows.

There was never a law against being Catholic, Jewish, Italian or Japanese, either. It seems that many religions and ethnicities must pass through an initiation

of hate and fear before they are accepted as true and loyal Americans. Muslims, too, will pass the initiation and decades from now people will wonder how such a sad state could have come to pass in America.



Workshops on Affordable Housing Will Begin September 26

A powerful video highlighting the role of the Federal Housing Administration in creating segregated neighborhoods will be presented in an interactive workshop at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, September 26, at The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave. (at Springfield Avenue).

Members of the church's Affordable Housing Task Force will present the after-church workshop, "Prejudice, Privilege & Poverty," part of a well-researched series called Just Neighbors. The session uses video and group discussion to explore how early lending practices and laws have had a long term effect on education, employment and economic opportunity.

The 75-minute session will be free and open to the public. It will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Two more workshops from the Just Neighbors series will be held later this fall, also from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall:

- Sunday, October 17 - "Does Working Work?" By taking a look at three case studies of working families struggling to meet their basic needs, participants will gain insight into how economic trends and changes in employment practices have created a cycle of poverty. Youth in grades 10 to 12 are invited to attend.
- Sunday, November 14 - "Housing Matters" After reviewing facts and figure about the hypothetical town of Shelbyville, we will role-play a Town Council meeting at which the council and town residents debate the need for and the options for providing affordable housing.

The Just Neighbors workshops were created by Family Promise, a Summit-based organization with affiliates in 41 states working to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise began as the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which mobilizes local congregations to provide temporary housing for homeless people so they can achieve lasting independence.

The Unitarian congregation participates in Summit's Interfaith Hospitality Network through HomeFirst, a Plainfield-based affiliate of Family Promise. For many years, the Unitarians have provided temporary lodging to homeless families during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Childcare will be available during the workshops by signing up in advance with Lorraine Wearley at lorrainewearley@gmail.com. Cost will be \$10 per child. Also contact Lorraine for more information.

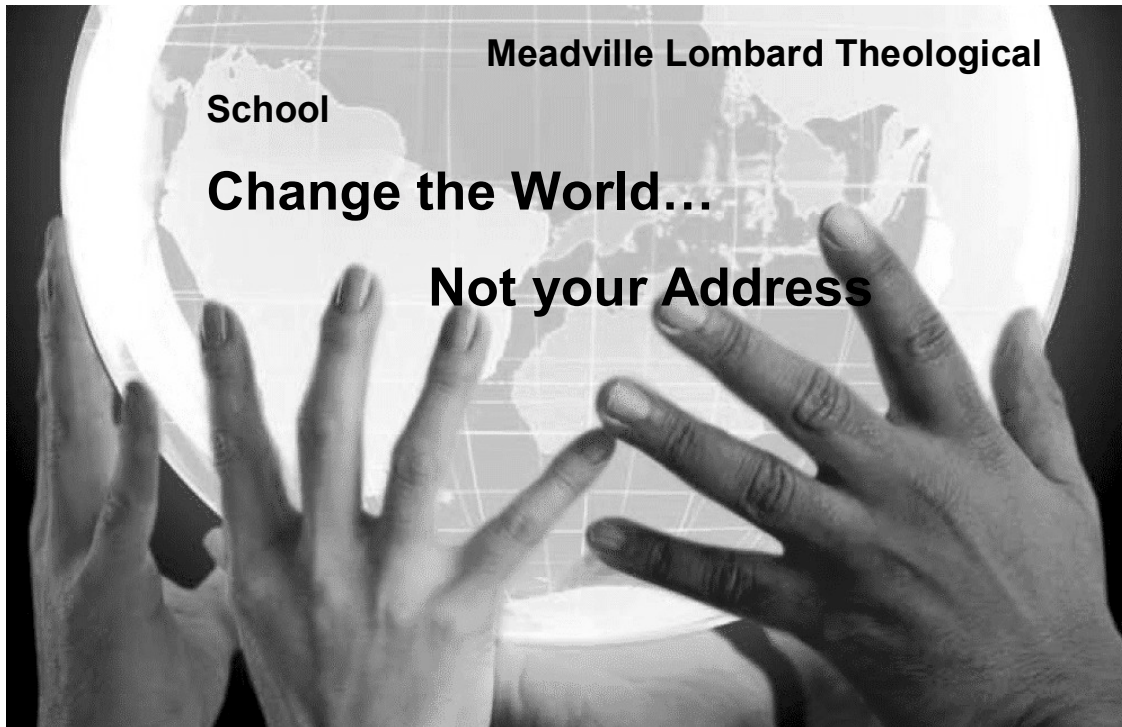
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Jean Crichton
173 Summit Ave.
Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2899
jeancrichton@gmail.com



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We are on the web!

www.essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

5-47 Cleveland St.
Orange, NJ 07050

Church Phone: 973 674-0010

Minister's Email:

DBerger361@gmail.com

Business Email: office@essexuu.org



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

**WHERE EVERY MIND IS FREE AND
EVERY SOUL IS WELCOME!.**

Founded in Orange in 1890 as the First Unitarian Church of Essex County, the congregation has worshipped in the present Sanctuary since its construction in 1892-3. The Church continues the ministry of the Union Universalist Society (also known as the Church of the Redeemer), founded as the First Universalist Society of Newark in 1834.

The Reverend Darrell E. Berger

Frank Barszcz: President

Flore Dorcely: Vice-President

Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator

Barrie Peterson: Chaplain

Donna Blaine: Sexton

Nina Barszcz: Newsletter Editor

Office Hours: Mondays 9 AM to 2 PM and
Fridays 1 PM to 6 PM

Minister is available Tuesdays, Wednesday
and Thursdays by appointment. Call church
main line

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

