

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

December 2013

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

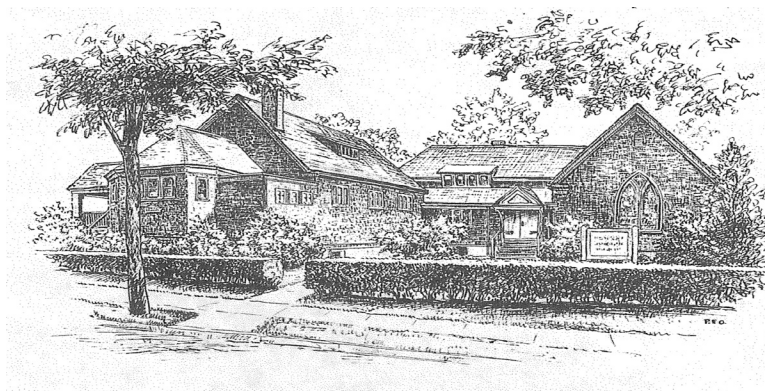
Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

Dear Members of the First UU Church of Essex County,

This is to notify you that in lieu of a regular service, there will be a **Special Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday 15 December 2013 at 10:30 AM** in the Parish Hall of the church, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange, NJ. The agenda will include:

- **Update on progress on the discussions with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair** regarding possible merger of the two congregations, the primary goal of which is the continuation of the UU urban ministry in Orange.
- **Approve the hiring of the Rev. Gordon Bailey as part-time Consulting Minister.** [NOTE: Rev. Bailey will be preaching in Orange on 8 December. Biographical and other Information about Rev. Bailey will be forthcoming.]
- **Discuss the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) and Letter of Intent (LOI)** with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Montclair that is being developed.
- **Approve the path forward with regard to continuing merger discussions with the Montclair congregation.**
- **Review and approve modified Budget for 2013-14 Church year.**

Please contact the Secretary if you have any questions about this matter. Additional information on the agenda items will be provided prior to the Special meeting. You may call the church at 973-674-0010 or e-mail at secretary@essexuu.org.



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MARK IT DOWN

- ♦ Sunday, 15 December 2013, Special Congregational Meeting, 10 :30 AM, Parish Hall
- ♦ Wednesday, 18 December 2013, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM,

December Sunday Services

Services start at 10:30 AM

01 Dec **Beloved Community Sunday** **Social Hour Host: Georgiana Hart**

08 Dec ***Gratitude Revisited*** **Rev. Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey** **Musician: Dave Braham, Senior**
Usher: Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host: Bill Slezak

In her poem, entitled *otherwise*, the poet Jane Kenyon reflects on her blessings:

I got out of bed on two strong legs. It might have been otherwise. I ate cereal, sweet milk, ripe, and flawless peach. It might have been other wise. I took the dog uphill to the birch wood. All morning I did work I love. At noon I lay down with my mate. It might have been other wise. We ate dinner together at a table with silver candlesticks. It might have been otherwise. I slept in a bed in a room with paintings on the walls, and planned another day just like this day. But one day, I know, it will be otherwise.

May we look to this day as an invitation to living fully and completely in the now, the world of love, loss and hope for better tomorrows.

Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey graduated from The University of the District of Columbia with a dual BA in Anthropology and Sociology, and earned a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in the District of Columbia specializing in Urban Ministry. He is presently the Consulting Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Pomona, NY, and has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Garden City, NYC, Washington DC, Utica and Oneonta NY in various ministry positions. A Board Certified Clinical Chaplain and Pastoral Counselor with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, he is also a candidate at the Harlem Family Institute for certification in Psychotherapy. Additionally, Rev. Bailey has a small Consulting, Counseling and Coaching practice with institutions, individuals and families and is Founder/President/CEO of New York Interfaith Associates, Inc., a new not-for-profit organization devoted to Interfaith Dialog, Clinical Pastoral Education and practical training (CPE/T) as well as Spiritual Care. He is married to Lisa Stiffler Bailey and they have four children (Jennifer, Devin, Ethan, Darien) between them and one grand daughter (Kai). They currently live in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

15 Dec **Special Congregational Meeting** **Starts at 10:30 AM**

22 Dec **The Fear Of Dark And Light Of Love** **Rev. Allen Wells** **Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior**
Usher: Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host: Joint

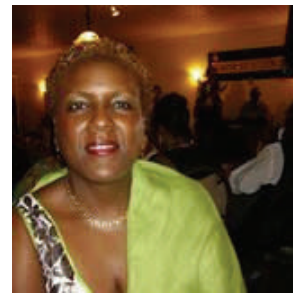
On this first full day of winter with the longest night only one day past, let's consider the gifts the night may bring us if we're not too afraid to experience the dark. You are also invited to bring along your favorite Christmas story to share.

Rev. Allen Wells is currently Director of Allen Wells Counseling in Morristown, N.J. a holistic mind/

December Sunday Services (continued)

body, spirit counseling center that specializes in Contemplative or Mindfulness Psychotherapy. He has served as minister of UU congregations in Weymouth, Mass., Hollis Queens and at The First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn as well as Director of Religious Education for the UU Congregation of Monmouth County and the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. He graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in counseling, and earned a postgraduate degree in counseling from the Institute of Religion and Health in NYC. Formerly a therapist of the DiMele Center for Counseling & Psychotherapy in Manhattan, Allen's life long interest has been in unifying the internal, personal, psychological world, commonly called "spiritual", and the external political, social, economic, environmental world, -- the material world. He defines himself as an earth-centered, Buddhist, UU.

Pamela Thomas — An Unsung Heroine
Georgiana Hart



I've gotten to be close friends with Pamela Thomas, a woman who goes to my gym. She speaks regularly to most patrons who attend the gym, knowing about ninety percent of their names. I noticed that often people would tell her they had used clothing, and frequently one or another person would carry a huge bag of clothing into the gym to put in her car, but I didn't question why.

Pamela is a dedicated member of the Church of God and Saints of God church on Central Avenue In Newark. She is not a member in name only. On Tuesdays, I discovered, all day, she collects, sorts and distributes clothing to needy folks in the neighborhood. Most who arrive at the doorstep will never become members of her church. She admits that few of the regular members of her own congregation are so active. That doesn't stop her from consistently asking people at our gym if they have something they haven't worn lately for the folks who do without.

One day I mentioned to her that our church donates a dozen boxes of food to needy families at the elementary school next door and how we paid a local supermarket to make up the boxes. Last Thanksgiving, Pamela suggested to me how she can "do better" at that price and even serve "serve several more fami-

lies" for the holiday. She came through as promised on the delivery date, just days before the children's days off.

Pamela only admitted to me a month afterwards that several days before the expected date, the place where she had been ready to get a good deal on turkeys fell through. She had to desperately search suppliers and scramble for miles before she reached another "good deal". I had no idea of her effort at the time. This is only one example of the way she quietly goes about serving people through her church with clothing, food drives and prepared meals.

Her consistency at the gym extends to the way she is always available to offer patrons—at no cost—her expertise in home realty and insurance, having long-standing licenses in both practices. Recently she has also donated her time to act in two anti-racist plays just to "broaden her horizon" of talent. I am humbly proud to be one of Pamela's good friends.

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BELOVED COMMUNITY 10:30 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 SERMON: Gratitude Re-visited 10:30 AM	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Special Cong. Meeting 10:30 AM	16	17	18 Board of Trustees Sonnen Room 7:30 PM	19	20	21
22 SERMON: The Fear Of Dark & Light Of Love 10:30 AM	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26	27	28
29 Round Table 11 AM	30	31				

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
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Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address:
35 & 47 Cleveland St
Orange NJ 07050-2907

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: office@essexuu.org

Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

President: Darcy Hall

**Vice President: Mindy Thompson
Fullilove**

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Custodian: Anisha Sanders

Administrator: Greg Giacobe



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections



WE VALUE: Community... Exploration... Fellowship... Spirituality... Liberal Religious Education... Diversity... Freedom... and Action.

OUR VISION: To be a life-affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and background 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.

OUR MISSION: To study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship. To provide support and care for our community and the community at large.

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.