



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

March 2014

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

## Spiritually Speaking: *The Great Thaw*

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### MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Sunday, 9 March, Celebrations & Music, 1:00 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Tuesday, 18 March, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Sunday, 23 March, Special Congregational Meeting, 12:15 PM, Parish Hall

The name of March comes from Latin Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named for Mars, the Roman god of war who was also regarded as a guardian of agriculture and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. His month Martius was the beginning of the season for both farming and warfare, and the festivals held in his honor during the month were mirrored by others in October, when the season for these activities came to a close. Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally New Year's celebrations. March 1 began the numbered year in Russia until the end of the 15th century. Great Britain and its colonies continued to use March 25 until 1752, when they finally adopted the Gregorian calendar. Many other cultures and religions still celebrate the beginning of the New Year in March.

So what am I getting at? I'm trying to remind each of us maybe myself the most that **Spring** is in fact coming and that we as a hemisphere, nation and region can begin to thaw at some point fairly soon. With the great thaw will come the renewal I hope that has come for eons? For when **Spring** does come life for many of us begins in earnest. Mind you I have nothing against winter. I am a bit over the gloves, hats, flu season and shoveling, icy roads and fuel bills to name just a few of the gifts of the last four months that have made winter so appealing. But I feel euphoria when the days are longer and the greening of the fields comes to. Oh spring your name is fair and this one that loves the flowers, and birds, cant possibly hold back his glee. Yes, I'm renewed in this time. Yes, I am ready to plant again. Yes, if I didn't take full advantage of the season that is passing I can make my amends now. For the ancients knew that spring was the time of the new beginnings and so do I on a more natural basis.

Spring calls us back to nature, fills our sails with warmer winds, soothes our weary bones, and lifts our spirits. Spring is full of psychic potential because it satisfies basic motives that bring hope. Perhaps this is what prompted Bern Williams to offer one of most succinct reflections on hope and spring: "The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring."

And so it goes, welcome to this season and greetings to a time of hope. For in the life of a congregation there is no more important sense than hope. We have some difficult task ahead of us. This season has tested us. Challenged our building and grounds. And served notice upon each of us to renew our commitment to FUUCE. If you have been on the sidelines this past winter its time change that pattern. Get involved now. If you have been holding back because your not sure of your feelings about the minister or the leadership it time to step up and take up the work yourself. Lastly, if you are desirous of a more productive, spiritually engaging and thoroughly awesome life experience then seek no more. For this congregation has a place for you to grow, share and love in a more profound way!

I hope to see you. Bring a friend Sunday is every Sunday. Long live Spring.

In faith,

Gordon



**March Sunday Services**

Services start at 11 AM

02 Mar **Beloved Community Sunday** Discussion Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host - Georgiana Hart

09 Mar *What is the Religious Liberal to make of Lent?* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey  
 Musician - Dave Braham, Usher - Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host - Gregory Giacobe

During this very religious season I've been asked often what am I giving up for lent. It's a puzzling question for a non-Catholic but one worth some sincere thought. Not in the way that a member of the Episcopal faith or Orthodox or Catholic may find it but one worth our time and attention nevertheless. Come join us as we look at this venerable practice and how we religious liberals may approach it or even benefit from it.

16 Mar *The Wide World of Norbert Fabian Capek* Rev. Joseph Ben-David  
 Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - TBA, Social Hour Host - Cindy Long

Rev. Dr. Norbert Fabian Capek was a member of the First UU Church of Essex County during his stay in the United States. In this sermon, we will explore Capek's Unitarian philosophy and his enormously creative life, tragically ending with his murder in the Dachau concentration camp. Rev, Ben-David will also include the contemporary resources in psychology and theology, Dr. Capek would be identifying with, were he alive today.

*Reverend Joseph Ben-David is a minister emeritus of the Religious Society of Czech Unitarians. His mentor was Dr. Norbert Fabian Capek, the founder of the Society who as a most dynamic spiritual leader created the unique Flower Communion and built the Prague congregation into the largest Unitarian Church in the world, having 3,000 members.*

23 Mar *Who's Fooling Who* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey  
 Musician - Dave Braham, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Bill Slezak

Humans go through a series of ups and downs in life. Often we delude ourselves into believing things that aren't true. In this service we will explore why humans have a hard time dealing with the truth and how we may move towards authentic living with as much honesty as we can muster. Join us for a morning filled with introspection and truth telling.

30 Mar **East-West Sunday: Sufism** Discussion Leader - Wayne Eastman, Social Hour Host: Darcy Hall  
 11:15 AM

In this East-West session, long-time church members Wayne Eastman and Darcy Hall will lead a program on the mystical Sufi tradition within Islam. In addition to our usual film, there will be a craft project for all ages.

## Worship Services To Start at 11 AM

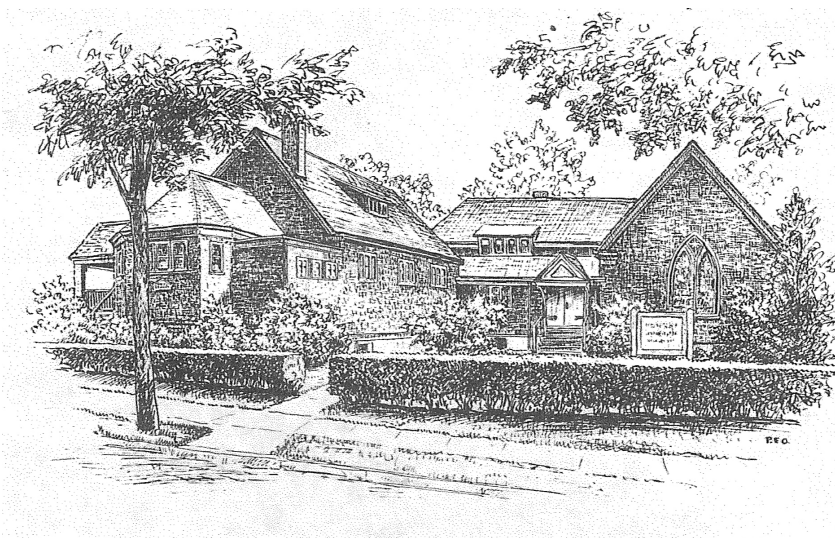
At its 18 February meeting, the Board of Trustees directed that regular worship services start at 11:00 AM, beginning in March 2014. In coordination with this, Beloved Community Sundays will also start at 11 AM. Formal services will continue to be held in the Sanctuary while Beloved Community will continue to be held in the Parish Hall. Although this move was being contemplated in association with the plans for merging with the UU Congregation of Montclair, it was prompted at this time by recurring incidents with our tenants who share our worship space on Sunday mornings. The change in starting time should allow sufficient time for them to vacate, the custodian to clean the Sanctuary, and our ushering staff to set up for our services. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org) or 973-674-0010.

## Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 23 March 2014, 12:15 PM

At the same meeting, the Board of Trustees announced there will be a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 23 March 2014 at 12:15 PM in the Parish Hall to discuss the following items:

- Renewing the Minister for the next two years
- Vote on the Letter of Intent Concerning the Merger with UUCM

It was stressed that attendance at this meeting is absolutely essential to the democratic process of our church, and to the success and survival of our church as it enters its 125th year in Orange. Please RSVP as soon as possible to [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org) or 973-674-0010.



# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 BELOVED COMMUNITY 11 AM	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 SERMON: Religious Liberal/Lent 11 AM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 SERMON: Norbert Fabian Capek 11 AM	17	18 Board of Trustees Sonen Room 7:30 PM	19	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline
23 SERMON: Who's Fooling Who 11 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 EAST-WEST: Sufism 11:15 AM						

*March 2014 INTERFAITH CALENDAR*

- 1 Saint David of Wales (Christian)
- 2 Transfiguration Sunday (Christian)  
Meatfare Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
- 2-20 Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)
- 3 Clean Monday - Lent begins (Orthodox Christian)
- 4 Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
- 5 Ash Wednesday - Lent begins (Christian)
- 9 Orthodox Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
- 16 Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)  
Purim [starts on eve of 15 March] (Jewish)
- 17 St Patrick's Day (Christian)  
Holi (Hindu)  
HolaMohalla (Sikh)
- 20 Spring Equinox  
Ostara/Mabon (Wicca/Pagan), northern/southern hemisphere
- 21 NawRuz [New Year] (Baha'i)  
Norouz [New Year] (Persian/Zoroastrian)
- 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
- 28 Khordad Sal [Birth of Prophet Zarathustra] (Zoroastrian)
- 31 Hindu New Year
- 31- Ramayana (Hindu)
- 8 April



**We are on the web: [essexuu.org](http://essexuu.org)**

## MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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Orange NJ 07050-2907

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

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Minister's Email: [minister@essexuu.org](mailto:minister@essexuu.org)

Web: [essexuu.org](http://essexuu.org)

**Minister: Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

**President: Darcy Hall**

**Vice President: Mindy Thompson  
Fullilove**

**Treasurer: Bill Slezak**

**Secretary: Greg Giacobe**

**Custodian: Anisha Sanders**

**Administrator: Greg Giacobe**

**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.



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