



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

September 2014

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Sunday, 14 Sept, Ingathering, 10:30 AM, Front Lawn
- ◆ Wednesday, 17 Sept, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Spiritually Speaking: Seeking an Inspiring Congregational Year

By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

I have always felt that the beginning of a new congregational year can be somewhat confusing. Solemn, yet celebratory. Stirring, yet scary. Inspiring, but rather intimidating.

But there are facets of this special season that are as clear as the clarion call of the *shofar* itself. You see, during this opening month of the liturgical year, we not only have our Water Communion (please bring water from locations you visited over the summer), Ingatherings and Welcome back meals, but also the school year begins. More than that, it is the Jewish New Year.

Rosh Hashanah (the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, a Day of Judgment and coronation of G-d as king) is a day of opportunity for closeness to the Divine. Some find it through introspection, others through meditation. For some, prayer is the medium of choice, while for others it is the shofar blasts that pierce through the curtains of the mundane.

The key to getting the most out of any experience – and, in this case, our congregational year – is preparation before it starts. You should not expect to jump from the shower to the pew and instantly feel holy, connected and part of the march toward justice. It just doesn't work that way.

With that in mind, I decided to do something practical this year to get "in the mood." Mere reflection and contemplation were just not cutting it.

Here are a few ways you might consider to re-engage or even to begin the journey towards wholeness:

- Join us for Services every Sunday, Bring family members and friends
- Volunteer, Come to the Social Justice meetings, and movies,
- Come to Adult RE, we will explore Islam this year,
- Stop by once a month for the Lunch Bunch, Join or create a Small Group Ministry, Go to Metro District events and most of all stay connected to your fellow members here at our Spiritual/Religious home.

*Be ours a religion which,
like sunshine, goes
everywhere; its temple, all
space; its shrine, the good
heart; its creed, all truth;
its ritual, works of love; its
profession of faith, divine
living.*

—Theodore Parker

How can you have the best UU year ever? By getting involved in a way you never imagined before. Lastly read these words of Theodore Parker and come prepared to share more than you ever dreamed of.

Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere; its temple, all space; its shrine, the good heart; its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love; its profession of faith, divine living.

In love,

—Gordon

September Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

14 Sept [Ingathering] *Water, Wonder and Resolve* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Dave Braham, Ushers - Gregory Giacobe & Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host - Georgiana Hart

This service is about where you have been. Did you remember to engage the world around you? And have you committed yourself to the transformative work that is required to make this world a better place. Join us First UU of Essex for a reunion of friends and family as we kick off our new congregational year.

Please gather on the church front lawn at 10:30 AM for our opening Ingathering processional. Bring some cookies or lemonade to share. Also bring some real (or symbolic) water from a place you have been this summer. This helps bring us together after our summer hiatus.

21 Sept NO SERVICE AT THE ORANGE CHURCH. You are invited to attend the 11:00 AM service at the [UU Congregation at Montclair](#).

28 Sept *Adam and Eve Remembered* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Cindy Long, Social Hour Host - Georgiana Hart

All human societies, including our own, tell stories of how the world began. Such stories are almost infinitely varied in detail, but they tend to include some basic themes. Today's service will remember the Hebrew Biblical account and also delve into the ongoing psycho-social implications of scriptures and myth.



September 2014 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- 1 Ecclesiastical year begins (Orthodox Christian)
- 8 Nativity of Mary (Christian)
- 14 Holy Cross Day/Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Christian)
- 22 Autumnal Equinox/Mabon [northern hemisphere]/Spring Equinox/Ostata [southern hemisphere] (Wicca/Pagan)
- 24 Sundown Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 26 Sundown
- 27 Meskel (Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)
- 29 Michael & All Angels Day (Christian)
- 29 - 3 Oct Navaratri (Hindu)

Share-The-Plate Fall 2014 Update

First UU has been undergoing a lot of change in the last year. We are continuing our conversations with our faith neighbors in Montclair as we draw closer in our dealings. This include the possibility of stream their services to our church and the hiring of a new part-time minister who will be working in close cooperation with the Montclair ministerial team. However, we had to continue our effort this past semester of holding only two formal services a month. This impacted on our Sunday collections and therefore on Share-The-Plate. Total Sunday collections so far for 2013/14 it was \$ 2045.00 while for 2012/13 it was \$ 2526.50. For the coming church year, we expect about 35 formal services. So, to meet if not exceed last year's total.

The recipient for the Winter/Spring 2014 was ORNG INK, a community arts program by & for youth, run under the auspices of HANDS, Inc., Valley Arts & the University of Orange. The period ran from 26 January to 1 June 2014 and raised a total of \$688.

In total as of 1 July 2014, Share-The-Plate has collected and distributed \$7319.50 since its inception. This is all due to our church's giving spirit. Thank you very much.

PAST SHARE-THE-PLATE RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS
Feed The Needy (St. John the Evangelist RC Church, Orange NJ)	\$695.50
Haitian Pastors Association, East Orange, NJ	\$1379.00
UUA/UUSC Pakistan Flood Relief Fund, Boston, MA	\$539.25
Anthony O'Brien (UNNOH), New York, NY	\$550.00
Gale Center – Planned Parenthood of Metro NJ	\$1493.50
Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges	\$622.75
ORNG INK	\$2039.50
Share-The-Plate – Cumulative Total (as of 1 July 2014):	\$7,319.50

Fall 2014 "SHARE-THE-PLATE" RECIPIENT CHOSEN

At it's 4 May 2014 meeting, First UU's Social Action Committee chose the next recipient for our "Share-The-Plate" program. There was one submission for the *Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless (MESH)*. MESH is a local, faith-based organization dedicated to engaging the Montclair community to provide basic and essential services to Montclair's most vulnerable homeless adults. The UU Congregation at Montclair (UUCM) is one of at least six houses of worship in the Montclair area that participate in the MESH program. For the last four years, every Wednesday evening from September thru June they serve between 45-60 people a five-course, home cooked meal. Approximately 20 volunteers shop for, cook, serve and clean up after these meals weekly. When the weather is extremely harsh, guests in need are also afforded an overnight respite. The program is completely self-funded, relying on donations from participating volunteers and other concerned members of our community. MESH and UUCM are both 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Donations will be made out to UUCM and tagged "MESH" in order to use the funds to support their Wednesday night meal ministry.

The committee endorsed this proposal and it was confirmed by the Board of Trustees at its 21 May 2014 meeting with the proviso that the First UU of Essex will be credited as an independent sponsor.

The collection period will run from 14 September 2014 through 25 January 2015. Share-The-Plate requires that at least half of the cumulative unrestricted donations made during the Offertory of any formal Sunday service will be set aside for a designated charity. Checks made to the church as part of members' pledge fulfillment, or for any other previously announced appeal (such as Chalice Lighters), will not be included.

The goals of Share-The-Plate is to promote the congregation's stated 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 fulfill the congregation's mission "to study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship", and "[t]o provide support and care for our [religious]

Happenings @ Montclair

Adult RE Classes and Groups are Continuing!

Upcoming sessions include:

- Men's Group – Saturday, 13 September, 8:30 AM (Peierls Room). Are you a man? Are you a UU man? Would you enjoy getting together with other UU men? All UU men are welcome to join a thoughtful, mutually supportive group. Friendly, fraternal conversations provoke reflection, insight and more than a little uplifting humor. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uucammen/> to learn more about our group.
- Crazy QUUilters — Saturday, 20 September, 10 AM (Rotunda). Be it a queen-sized bed quilt or decorator pillows, the work done by the Crazy QUUilters brings joy to the creators and the recipients. Our bee includes sharing of a potluck lunch. The workshop is open to all willing hands. If you are new to the group or would like info about our upcoming meeting, contact Arlene Marin at arlenemarin@hotmail.com.

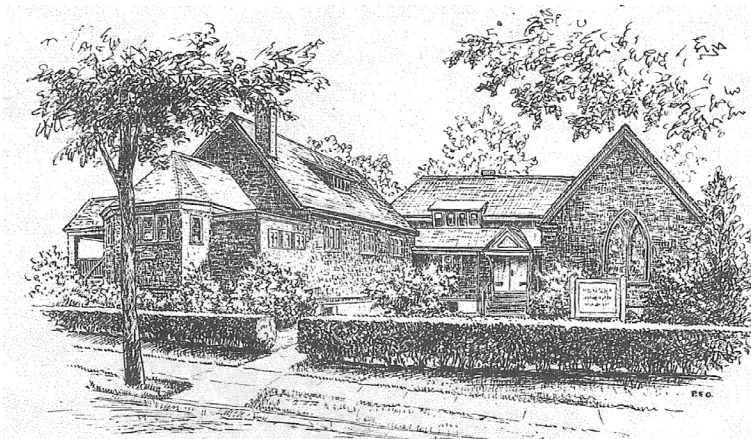
"SHARE-THE-PLATE" RECIPIENT (Continued)

community and the community at large". It will also be seen as a way to enhance 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. However, the program is not intended to not displace other regular and special funding appeals.

Members can submit potential candidate organizations and programs to the Social Action Committee, either directly, by mail or through the church web site (http://essexuu.org/share_the_plate.html). The committee will review submissions to see if they fit with the church's mission, vision and the program's goals, before sending their choice to the Board of Trustees. All charities must be submitted by a church member, be either a 501(c) 3 or 501(c) 4 non-profit organization, do work that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, supply a name and description of the charitable organization or project, and supply contact information.

Separate checks for the charity, either given during the Offertory or sent to the church for this purpose, should either be made out to the charity or to "The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County" with "Share the Plate" in the "memo" line. To the extent allowed by law, checks written to the church will be acknowledged as a tax deductible donation. A church check for at least 50% of all unrestricted donations given during Sunday collections, as well as any received checks to be forwarded, will be sent with an acknowledgement letter no later than ten days after the last collection for that charity.

For more information, contact Georgiana Hart, Social Action Chair, at 973-902-1701 or luchahart@gmail.com.



September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 [Ingathering] Ser- vice: Water, Wonder and Resolve 11AM	15	16	17 Board of Trus- tees Sonnen Room 7:30 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Service: Adam and Eve Remembered 11 AM	29	30				



HIDDEN TREASURES OF OUR ORANGE: A Night of Storytelling, TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2014, 6 PM, sponsored by University of Orange

Orange NJ is bursting with stories! Join us for A Night of Storytelling to raise funds for the University of Orange "Hidden Treasures of Our Orange" project <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/hidden-treasures-of-our-orange#home> . This project will record stories of our small, beleaguered post-industrial city! Help us find Our Future City (and yours)! Over 20 gifted storytellers will make you laugh, cry and cheer while they compete for a coveted prize.

Location:

**Firehouse Gallery
580 Forest Avenue, Orange, NJ
6PM-8PM**



Contact Mindy Fullilove at mindy.fullilove@gmail.com



OPEN HOUSE for PIRATE TREASURE HUNT

First UU is intending to participate with the University of Orange in its HIDDEN TREASURES OF OUR ORANGE campaign when it holds its "Pirate Treasure Hunt".

Location & Details:

Parish Hall, 35 Cleveland St, Orange, NJ
Saturday, 27 September
Time to be determined

Contact Mindy Fullilove at mindy.fullilove@gmail.com



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climate
March.

nyc
9/21

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PeoplesClimateMarch.org

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
PO Box 998.
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

Minister: Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

President: Georgiana Hart

**Vice President: Mindy Thompson
Fullilove**

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

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.



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections

