

First Unitarian Universalist Church Of Essex County



Newsletter

April 2013

From Darrell's Desk

Rev. Darrell Berger

The Medium Changes - The Message Doesn't

When I arrived as your minister six years ago, I received perhaps a dozen church newsletters in the mail every month. Now I receive exactly zero. All are emailed. To contact a minister, I google "UU" plus the town where the congregation is located. Its website is usually the first item.

I once recorded my sermons on a cassette recorder. Each new version was smaller than the last until they disappeared, replaced by a very small mp3 recorder. I plug this into my itunes, and can email it to webmaster Paul for our website.

Some of our Board business is conducted via email; discussions, sharing of information, even voting. Email is the main way I keep in touch with staff.

This isn't different from the way any organization conducts its business now, of course. And like other organizations, we need to keep up. How could we possibly not have a website, or send announcements to our email members list? We could not survive without changing with the technological times.

Over the years I have been told if your congregation doesn't do this or that, it will not have a future. Usually this did not prove true. UU congregations did not have to have small groups ministries in people's homes, though some did. Ministers did not need to learn PowerPoint, though some did.

The question is, how to tell the passing fads from the trends that become necessities?

In the coming year we want to update our website, use our Facebook account more effectively, and decide what is the best format for our newsletter. Personally, I've sent about a dozen text messages in my life and have never sent nor received a tweet, so maybe I'm now like those ministers of a generation ago who held out against computers until, well, they all became extinct.

But I do know that regardless of how we move forward with technology, it is even more important that we remain true to the *content* of our communications. A Unitarian Universalist congregation makes a huge and positive difference in its community. We have, for over a century. We would like to see that continue. It is not clear, exactly, what form this will take. This is our creative challenge for the future. Whether we email, text, or tweet our values, or send them through some presently un-invented medium, we know that they will be consistent with our heritage: reason and free inquiry, acceptance of difference, seeking equality and justice. For among the clearest and most concise explanations of our movement is that answer a Universalist cleric had to the question, "Where do Universalists stand?"

"We do not stand," he replied. "We move."

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

07 April *Our Sabbatical Year* **Rev. Darrell Berger** **Musician: Bill Stafford**
Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

It is the beginning of my seventh year as your minister. It is time for us to take a year for reflection and reinvigoration, to help us define the path of our ministry for the next chapter. While this usually means the minister goes off somewhere and refuels while the congregations rediscovers itself and its priorities, I'm suggesting we take our sabbatical together, actively, and in doing so reappoint our sense of mission and ministry to the possibilities that lie before us. In other words, before our Canvass Kickoff I want to talk about what we are giving and why.

14 April *Dedication of The Blodgett Room* **Gregory Giacobe, Melanie Axel-Lute, Darcy Hall**
Musician: TBA **Usher: Ann E Lang**

This Sunday, we will remember and honor two late members of our faith community who influenced many of us over the years, even the character of the church itself - Connie & Malcolm Blodgett. Joining in 1948, they both remained active members for over 50 years, and became leaders and respected elders. Malcolm was well-remembered as the long-standing director of the church choir, and Connie for her good humor and equally long-standing position as church secretary. Invitations have been extended to their surviving children, Elizabeth & Jonathan. As part of the service, a plaque will be unveiled that will formally dedicate the old church office as the Blodgett Room, a new common area when members & guests can socialize and relax before & after service.

21 April **Round Table: *Luna Stage Past and Future*** **Jane Mandel** **Usher: Greg Giacobe**

28 April **Round Table: TBA**

APRIL MEETINGS/EVENTS

Canvass Kick-Off, Sunday, 7 April

UU PREVIEW NIGHT: "Moon for the Misbegotten", Thursday, 11 April, 7:30 PM, Luna Stage, Tickets \$15

Board of Trustees: Wednesday, 17 April 2013, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Canvass Wrap-Up, Sunday, 21 April



Coffee Hour Coordinator for April: Ross Miller



Please Excuse Our Appearance

We are in the process of re-evaluating the production and distribution of our newsletter, as well as the design and use of our website and Facebook page. Please bear with us during this transition. If you have skills in these areas that you could volunteer, please contact Greg Giacobe, the Church Administrator.

TOGETHER
**NORTH
JERSEY.**

CONNECTING
PEOPLE, PLACES,
AND POTENTIAL.

ORANGE, EAST ORANGE, NEWARK, AND WEST ORANGE

Inner M&E Strategic Corridor Plan

GIVE US YOUR IDEAS.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2
6:00PM - 8:00PM
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF ESSEX COUNTY**
35-47 Cleveland Street
Orange, NJ 07050

Please RSVP at cgreen@lisc.org



THE INNER M&E STRATEGIC CORRIDOR PLAN is a constructive dialogue with the communities of Newark, East Orange, Orange, and West Orange along the Morris and Essex Line encompassing the station areas of Newark Broad Street, East Orange, Brick Church, Orange, and Highland Avenue. This event gives YOU the opportunity to share your ideas about planning for the future to make your communities more livable and have better access to jobs, housing, transportation, cultural and recreational opportunities.



What are the **critical links** that need to be strengthened within these communities?



What are the special **places** that make each community unique?



How can we best take advantage of the **transportation resources** to **connect to jobs and other opportunities**?



What are the **common issues and challenges** these communities face?

This project is in collaboration with Greater Newark LISC and the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies

LISC
Greater Newark

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Joseph C. Cornwall Center
for Metropolitan Studies
Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration | Newark

www.togethernorthjersey.com

NJ TRANSIT
The Way To Go.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2013

Regency House
140 Route 23
North Pompton Plains, New Jersey

12:00 – 4:00 PM (12:00 – 12:45 PM *Socializing*; 1:00 PM *Lunch*)

HONORED GUEST

AND RECIPIENT OF THE DOROTHY ELDRIDGE PEACEMAKER AWARD:

JEREMY SCAHILL

“DIRTY WARS: THE WORLD IS A BATTLEFIELD”



Jeremy Scahill is an investigative reporter and National Security Correspondent for *The Nation* magazine. His first book, *Blackwater*, published by Nation Books in 2007, looks at how this mercenary company became the nation's pre-eminent military contractor. His second book, *Dirty Wars*, to be released on April 23, 2013, takes us inside America's new covert wars and follows the consequences of the declaration that "the world is a battlefield." Scahill uncovers the most important foreign policy story of our time, as he reports from the frontlines of Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and beyond in this high-stakes investigation.

Scahill is also Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at The Nation Institute. He appears regularly on *The Rachel Maddow Show*, *Real Time* with Bill Maher, and *Democracy Now!*. He has also appeared on *Fresh Air*, ABC World News, CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, CNN, PBS NewsHour and *Bill Moyers Journal*. He was twice awarded the prestigious George Polk Award, in 1998 for foreign reporting and in 2008 for his book, *Blackwater*. His work has sparked several Congressional investigations.

Scahill wrote, produced and narrated the new film, "Dirty Wars: the World is a Battlefield," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this year. The film focuses on the Obama administration's increasing use of armed drones and secretive units.

Also Honoring:

Montclair Deputy Mayor Robert Russo & Councilwoman Renee Baskerville

Recipients of the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award

Jane Califf & Ted Glick

Peace Action Couple of the Year

Reservations Required

Please visit <http://www.njpeaceaction.org> or call **973-259-1126**

Dinner tickets: **\$50** before April 14th (**\$60** after April 14th). A limited number of discount tickets are available.



Paul & Melanie Axel-Lute's Retirement Party

Forget the black tie, it's no formal affair. Just come as you are for that casual flair, we'll drink, eat and laugh as we all reminisce. It's a gathering for friends who will surely be missed.

Open-mike! Bring a favorite song, piece of music or story to share, if you like.
Saturday, May 11th, 2013 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

A \$10 contribution per person is requested to cover food and beverages.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County Parish Hall, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange, N.J.
R.S.V.P. to Anne Miller (973) 943-5406 awmiller123@verizon.net

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

A church 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, founded as the First Universalist Society of Newark in 1834.

Darcy Hall
President

The Rev. Darrell E. Berger
Minister

Greg Giacobe - Church Administrator
Lawrence Turner - Building Superintendent
Anisha Sanders - Assistant Superintendent
Melanie Axel-Lute - Choir Coordinator

Rev. Berger is normally available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during business hours.
Call 973-674-0010. Minister's email: minister@essexuu.org

Church Office is open Fridays 9 AM to 2 PM • Church Telephone: 973-674-0010
Church E-mail: office@essexuu.org • Church Website: www.essexuu.org
Sanctuary, Parish Hall & Church Office: 35 Cleveland Street
Mailing Address: PO Box 998, Orange NJ 07051-0998

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 1892-93. 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 First Unitarian Universalist Church
of Essex County
PO Box 998
Orange, NJ 07051-0998**