



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

March 2015

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Special Congregational Meeting, 8 March, 12:15 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Wednesday, 11 March, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ CHURCH REVISIONING, Pt. 3, 29 March, 12 Noon, Parish Hall

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: Seeds of Change By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

I'm sitting here in my kitchen on a cold winter's morning dreaming of another time, place and season. For those of you who have known me for a long time, you know I'm not a cold weather baby. In fact, I love the warmth and the sun to the point of being accused of worshipping all that that is.

So, California Dreaming, Island Dreams - even Floridian Dreams - all have been a part of my discourse and real life plans. What can I tell you? I love short pants, sandals and the Margaritaville station on satellite radio.

So, what's a brother to do? How do we get through the long season of winter? More importantly, how do we get past the vortex of lethargy and moroseness that can occasionally grip our spirits, families, communities and, dare I say, congregations?

I'm not saying that we're stuck, but what I am saying is that I think it's time for the seeds of change to be planted, and firmly so, in both our rhetoric and applications.

During the past few months we've made some critical steps towards being a more activist group of UUs. This is great! Also, we have had a few more people visiting us in the recent months. So the word, or our Facebook page, or the universe is shinning on us. Even more exciting than that is the change that's blowing in the wind around here at FUUCE. I am seeing

the results of the visioning and forward steps towards our new reality. People are stepping up, standing out, and really voicing their opinions. I believe we have a real desire to see things change here, and I am so excited for this congregation. In fact mere words could never describe the feeling!

So find your niche, join a committee, help created an event, help me to help you!

We've got a lot to be excited about here at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County, and I can't wait to plant more seeds. The Seeds they are staring to sprout, maybe even grow into the kind of life affirming, life sustaining community that we all dream of.

In warmth, love and good seeds,
--Gordon



March Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

01 Mar [NO SERVICE] You are invited to attend the service at the UU Congregation at Montclair, 67 Church St, Montclair, NJ.

08 Mar *Life Purpose* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA

It's been said that you don't have to know the keys to success to have a good life. But the key to failure is attempting to please everyone. Join us for an excursion into discerning how to understand success on your own terms with the highs and lows along the way.

[There will be a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after service. ALL Members are urged to attend. For more information, please see page 3.]

15 Mar BELOVED COMMUNITY SUNDAY: *New Jersey Peace Action - NPT Call To Action* Discussion Leader: Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host: Georgiana Hart

Guest speakers will be Madelyn Hoffman, Executive Director of NJPA, and Linda Cubitosa, a member of the NJPA Board of Directors. FUUCE has been a Peace Site in conjunction with NJPA since 1986.

NJPA will present a brief 15-minute presentation that will describe the 3 days of events (24-26 April 2015) planned by NJPA and an international coalition of peace groups to take place in New York City, as well as capitals and major cities worldwide, leading up to the five-year review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the United Nations. The goal of the mobilization is to press the review conference to create a schedule to negotiate the total elimination of ALL nuclear arsenals. This could free up as much as \$100 billion per year that are currently spent on nuclear weapon systems instead of desperately needed social programs. Disarmament is critical at this time because of rising tensions between nuclear-armed countries including Russia, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea as well as the global economic crisis deepening the gulf between rich and poor. Madelyn and Linda will discuss ways in which our congregation can participate.

22 Mar [NO SERVICE] You are invited to attend the service at the UU Congregation at Montclair, 67 Church St, Montclair, NJ.

29 Mar *Moving Towards Something Great* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - TBA, Usher - Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host - Cindy Long

This is the season of great expectations, for things are growing inside and out. The sun is returning and the days seem longer. The children are outside more and more and many of us are dreaming about the next season. Join us as we explore and engage the longings of the heart, mind and spirit of spring.

[Following service, we will hold the third session of the CHURCH VISIONING in the Parish Hall. ALL members, friends & partners are welcome to attend.]

Share-The-Plate Winter 2015 Update

First UU continues to undergo change in this year. We are continuing our conversations with our faith neighbors in Montclair and laying plans for increasing our Urban Ministry in Orange and Essex County. We continue our effort this past year 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 2014/15 it was \$ 1239.00 while for 2013/14 it was \$ 2045.00. For this church year, we expect about 20 formal services. So, to meet if not exceed last year's total will be a challenge.

The recipient for the Fall 2014 was the Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless (MESH), a cooperative project of a number of churches in Montclair that is hosted by the UU Congregation at Montclair. The period ran from 14 September 2014 to 25 January 2015 and raised a total of \$594.50.

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
Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless (MESH)	\$594.50
Share-The-Plate - Cumulative Total (as of 1 March 2015):	\$7,914.00



Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, 8 March 2015 at 12:15 PM

We urge all members to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 8 March 2015 at 12:15 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the following items:

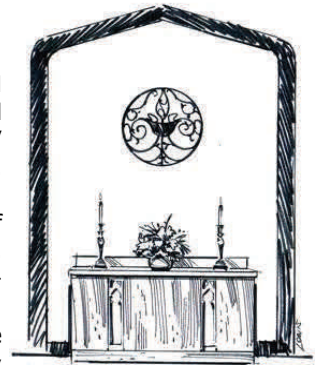
- Vote to Change the Minister's Time Allocation
- Vote Change Venue &/or Time of Worship Services
- Planning for 125th Anniversary Celebration

Your attendance at this meeting is very much needed to the democratic process that is the foundation of our church. Please RSVP as soon as possible the Church Office at 973-674-0010 or office@essexuu.org.

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 SERVICE: <i>Life Purpose</i> 11AM Special Congregational Meeting 12:15 PM	9	10	11 Board of Trustees Sonen Room 7:30 PM	12	13	14
15 BELOVED COMMUNITY: NJPA-NPT Call To Action 11 AM	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 SERVICE: <i>Moving Towards Something Great</i> 11AM CHURCH VISIONING, Pt. 3 12 Noon	30	31				

Happenings @ Montclair



- **Black and White: Beyond Black History Month — Sunday, 8 March at 12:30 PM (Fletcher Hall), presented by the Undoing Racism Committee.** Dionne Ford will present a talk and visual presentation "My Family Tree in Black and White". Jazz organist/pianist Radam Schwartz, musical director of the Jazz Institute of New Jersey, will perform. Maretta Short, URC member, past president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) of NJ, and founder and president of Women of Color and Allies, will read the poetry of Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and her own work. Donations accepted. RSVP required. Contacting Felice Celikyol at 973-744-0974 or felicec936@aol.com or Maretta Short at 973-380-6828 or koolretta@gmail.com.
- **Senior Lunch Bunch — Wednesdays, 11 & 25 March, 12 Noon (Peierls Room).** We generally choose a topic at each meeting for the next meeting, but the conversation usually wanders over several topics of interest to the group assembled that come up spontaneously (and with plenty of laughter thrown in). Everyone is welcome! For info, email Gary Sanderson at gwsanderson@verizon.net.
- **Solo UU's — Friday, 13 March, 7 PM (Rotunda).** Solo UU's are adults living the single life from our unique perspective within the UU community. We find many opportunities to connect socially, while we build a support network with adults currently living solo. Activities include joining together for discussions and dinner, and going to a movie, concert or play. To find out more, join us on the second Friday each month at UUCM where we meet at 7:00 PM for drinks and appetizers, and then socialize at a restaurant in Montclair. Newcomers are welcome! For info, call Ed Harris at 973-783-7645.
- **Men's Group — Saturday, 14 March, 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.
- **"Life Along the Mississippi" Coffee House & Catfish Fish Fry in honor of Rev. Charlie Ortman — Sunday, 29 March at 4:00 PM (Fletcher Hall).** All are welcome to attend and participate. To sing or play an instrument for the Coffee House, please contact Markus Grae-Hauck at musicdir@uumontclair.org. To contribute or participate in the fish fry, please contact Nick Lewis at nicklewis@comcast.net.
- **Passover Seder — Friday, 3 April 2015 6:00 PM Led by Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman.** Let's get together for an evening to celebrate our freedom and the hope of emancipation of all peoples! Food, drink and a wonderful Passover service will help us reflect together about our past and to think about our future.

CHURCH VISIONING, Part 3 — A Mission for the Next 125 Years (or so...)



The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County has had a wonderful 125 years worshipping at 35 Cleveland Street/Benjamin F. Jones Place (in memoriam). But we aren't as numerous as we used to be and that calls for some imagination about our future.

We have been meeting in the last few months to discuss a possible new course for our future, and helpful and hopeful ideas were offered. Now, we need to put it all together in a concise Mission statement for the coming years. Will you help us? We'd appreciate your thoughts as we look forward. Just as the City of Orange was bursting into activity in the 1890s, we are excited that this little city is on the move toward a future that we hope will be full of justice and beauty. How can First UU be part of this new era and join this great move forward? We are looking for answers.

Julie Erickson, a very experienced organization consultant, will continue to guide our visioning. Please join us in the Parish Hall after service on Sunday, 29 March 2015 at 12 Noon. For more information, please contact Mindy Fullilove at 201-562-3066 or email at vicepres@essexuu.org or visit us at <http://www.essexuu.org/>

March 2015 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- 1 Orthodox Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
Saint David of Wales (Christian)
- 2-20 Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i) [begins sundown on 1]
- 5 Purim (Jewish) [begins sundown on 4]
Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
- 6 Holi (Hindu)
Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- 17 St Patrick's Day (Christian)
Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- 18 L. Ron Hubbard birthday (Scientology)
- 19 Saint Joseph's Day (Christian)
- 20 Spring Equinox/Ostara [northern hemisphere]/Fall Equinox/Mabon [southern hemisphere] (Wicca/Pagan) [begins sundown on 19]
Naw Ruz [New Year] (Baha'i) [begins sundown on 20]
- 21 Norooz [New Year] (Persian/Zoroastrian)
New Year (Hindu)
- 21-28 Ramayana (Hindu)
- 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
- 28 Ramanavami (Hindu)
Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra (Zoroastrian)
- 29 Palm Sunday (Christian)

ABOUT THE CHURCH

ABOUT THE CHURCH highlights important events in the lives of our Members. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with the church membership, please contact the Church Office at office@essexuu.org or 973-674-0010. We have updates below:

- HAROLD MILLS is recovering from a bad fall at the South Mountain Healthcare & Rehab Center, 2385 Springfield Ave, Vauxhall, NJ. He is in Room 245, and would love visitors, calls & cards. The Center can be contacted at 908-688-3400 or info@smhcenter.com.
- JEAN SANDOW has been placed at the Berkeley Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 35 Cottage St. in Berkeley Heights, NJ. She is in room B14. To arrange a visit, please call the Center at 908-464-0048 or email at lhalliday@hospicomm.com.



1st Annual New Jersey MUUSIC Festival

March 8, 2015 3:00 p.m.

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

Join in a celebration of our faith, equality, compassion and justice through song. Music ensembles from congregations across the state will showcase their finest and come together for a UU All-State performance!



All proceeds will benefit the work of the

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ

Doors open at 2:30
21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ

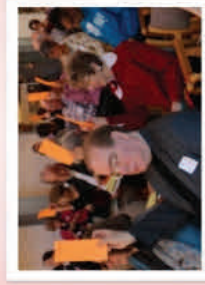
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901, 609.672.7331 UULMNJ is a 501 (C3) Non-Profit Organization



Saturday, April 18, 2015 9:00am
Hosted by the UU Congregation at Montclair
67 Church Street, Montclair NJ

What you can look forward to:

- **Keynote Address:** "The Modern Inconvenience of Race"
Junius Williams, Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, Rutgers University,
- **Important Task Force meetings:** Immigration Reform, Gun Violence Prevention, Criminal Justice Reform; New Jim Crow, Environmental Justice, Health & Reproductive Justice, Economic Justice
- **Liaison and Volunteer Training Opportunity:** TBA



Who Should Attend:

- Anyone looking for ways to make a difference by putting their faith into action in partnership with UULMNJ
- Congregational liaisons, social action committee members, congregational leaders, ministers, staff
- UULMNJ Task Force members

See you in Montclair!

Refreshments and check-in will begin 30 minutes prior to morning programming.
Lunch will be provided.

There is no registration fee for the conference. We ask that you contribute as generously as you can to cover the costs of the speaker, meals and materials.

UULMNJ cheerfully accepts cash, checks and credit cards.

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
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Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address:
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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

Sexton: Tony A Jones

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



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Church of Essex County**

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Making the connections

