



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Winter 2019/20

Inside this issue:

Monthly Sundays	2
About The Church	3
Newsletter Schedule	3
Calendar of Events	4
People's Platform for Equity	5

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Faith in Forgotten Places

By Aubrey Murdock

I grew up in a place people call the 'middle of nowhere.' They say 'there's nothing there.' When I graduated from high school and left my home in Wyoming, which I felt I was supposed to do, I started hearing this about other places, too - 'there's nothing there.' But when I'd meet people from these 'nowheres' I knew the stories weren't true, just like they weren't true about my home.

Maybe you're from a place like this, too. "Nowheres" can be a small lot, inside a neighborhood, inside a city. They can be huge swaths of land - what folks from the coasts call "fly over country." Nowheres can be spots in the ocean, creeks or marshlands.

But no place is ever really empty, and there is never just one story about a place. My home holds lots of complex emotions, experiences and memories for me. Many of the places described from the outside as without worth, are actually deeply loved. This love is not simple. We may want to change things about the places we're from. We may even feel anger or shame about the conditions of certain places. Yet, they are still important in many ways and to many people.

Now is an important moment to clear the fog of forgetfulness and start thinking critically about the places we think of as 'nowhere,' 'bad' or 'worthless.' This must always go hand in hand with confronting the idea that some people have more value than others. This work is absolutely necessary in facing the greatest issues of our time: structural inequity and environmental crises.

Every place is important ecologically. When we see places as removed from us, or don't notice them at all, this is by design. We've incorrectly believed there is such a place as "away." Each element of every item we've ever thrown away came from somewhere, went somewhere, and will likely remain in that place for the rest of our lifetime. Too often this mistreatment of places is paired with inhuman treatment of other humans, systemic racism and classism. It is a function of white supremacy to think it's ok for some to be exposed to toxic conditions but not others.

The systems that render people and places invisible or 'less than' are centuries old and deeply entwined with our daily lives. Our economic system is defined by an endless process to commodify all



MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 13 Jan, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ People's Platform for Equity, Saturday, 18 Jan, 3 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 19 Jan, 4 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 9 Feb, 4 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 17 Feb, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 16 Mar, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 22 Mar, 4 PM, Sanctuary

Continued on Page 3

Monthly Sundays

Gatherings will starting at 4 PM

FAITH + WORKS

First UU has taken to heart the Bible saying "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). We are learning to live our faith through works via the HUUB, which opens our buildings to our Orange neighbors. But to sustain that effort, we know we need more FAITH. In these challenging times we turn to wise people who can articulate FAITH and describe how their faith supports their WORKS. Join us for a six-part series called "FAITH+WORKS" on occasional Sunday evenings for this church year. Invited guests speakers will tell us of how their faith motivates their work, and how we can do the same. Please join us on the dates below.

19 Jan 2020 ***Work with The Oranges - Engaging & Retreating to Do What You LOVE!*** **Dominic Moulden**
Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove

The Oranges is a community rich in history, culture, parks, and people. He will lead us to explore a reflective journey on how to engage our community in faithful work and at the same time balance our work with healthy living in the form of retreating for rest, relaxation, and wellness. We can work with the Oranges and experience a life of full engagement, and then retreat with nature in the Oranges.

Dominic T. Moulden is a longtime resource organizer at Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC), a collectively-led organization that builds people power and economic and racial equity in Washington, DC. He is a frequent lecturer at various universities and conferences regarding equitable revitalization, cooperative economics, affordable housing, workplace democracy, community development, and public policy. As 2018 Urbanist in Residence at the University of Orange (UofO), Moulden incorporates ONE DC's People's Platform in his political and popular education sessions for UofO's "400 Years of Inequality: Observing the Anniversary of Jamestown, Disrupting the Ecology of Inequality" project. At the Maryland Institute College of Art he recently co-teaches "Making Art in Community," which focused on art-making, critical theory, and community organizing strategies.



Moulden is also a community-accountable photographer and social justice documentarian. His work has been exhibited most recently in MICA Place's "Portraits Of People We Love" exhibition curated by Sarah McCann. A native of east Baltimore, his images celebrate Black love and resilience while providing uncompromising witness to the ongoing displacement of Afrodiasporic people in Baltimore and elsewhere in the Americas. His creative practice and organizing work are both dedicated to fostering a culture of health that includes art, joy, and radical resource redistribution.

9 Feb ***Faith + Works [Jazz Service]*** **Ray Johnston** **Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

Accomplished musician and former member and close friend of First UU, Ray Johnston will be our guest presenter for Faith + Works on Sunday, 9 February at 4:00 PM.

Continued on Page 4

Editorial (cont.)

things. To achieve increasing financial gains from this ever growing commodity pool, some things, some people and some places must be devalued. How these things are chosen is not by chance. Social constructions like race, class, borders, and beliefs about value that stem from settler and colonial mentalities are used as delineations.

There is a tremendous amount of healing and reparation that needs to happen in our 'forgotten' places. Happily, just as pervasive as these systems of injustice are place-based movements and long histories of resistance that are alive, well, and globally connected today. It is from here that we should look to leadership. Though working with the University of Orange (UofO), a free people's urbanism school in Orange, NJ, I have had the great privilege of meeting dedicated people from all over, working hard for the places they live and love. Their work and care has become my faith. Honoring and contributing to this mighty constellation of hope is my work.

And at the First UU of Essex County I've found a place I can live this faith everyday. I became acquainted with the congregation in 2015 as they decided to keep their buildings running, and open their doors to the community. The UofO began using the space for our work. We collaborated with the HUUB on important projects, like building a Collective Recovery training. I started attending the congregation's monthly Faith+Works talks. Each time I found it was exactly where I needed to be on that day.

I released my dogma long ago, but my faith in people fighting for their places has grown vivid and strong. This is why I chose to join the First UU a couple years ago. The brave step the congregation took to uplift and share their assets with an open heart, is exactly what we need to be doing each day to build an equitable future. Through investment in forgotten places and one another, we can cultivate love and hope in a time of fear.

I hope you will join me in a challenge I've accepted for myself: I will never again think of any place as empty.

Aubrey Murdock is an artist, filmmaker and educator from Wyoming and now New Jersey. She is a member of the FUUCE and the Co-Director of University of Orange.



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 liaison@essexuu.org or 973-674-0010. We have updates below:

- Best Birthday wishes to the following Members: REBECCA DOGGETT (7 February); Board Secretary GREGORY GIACOBE (15 February); Church Vice President FRANK BARSZCZ (18 February); MOLLY KAUFMAN (14 March); CAROL BERNARD (21 March); and WAYNE EASTMAN (29 March).
- Belated Birthday wished to: Member MYRNA SMITH-WILLIAMS (16 December); Member BILL SLEZAK (28 December); and former Minister GORDON CLAY BAILEY (24 December).
- Belated Happy Anniversary to members CHARLIE WIRENE & CAMILLE GUYOT-BENDER on 24 December.
- Our belated condolences go out to: former Member LIZ SEATON on the loss of her husband, SIETZ FRANKFORT who passed on 15 September 2019; and to former Minister, REV. ANTHONY P JOHNSON on the loss of his sister, DEBORAH LYNN JOHNSON who passed on 23 October 2019.

Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines

The First UU Newsletter is published quarterly on or about 1 March (Spring), 1 June (Summer), 1 September (Autumn) and 1 December (Winter). Deadline for submissions will be on about 10 days before publication. The table below summarizes the updated schedule:

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Spring	Early April	23 March
Summer	—	—
Autumn	Early September	23 August
Winter	Early December	23 November

January 2020

- 13 Building Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 18 People’s Platform for Equity: *Finding What We’re FOR and Fighting for What We LOVE*, Dominic Moulden, Parish Hall, 3 PM. Hosted by the University of Orange and The HUUB
- 19 FAITH+WORKS: *Work with The Oranges* , Dominic Moulden, Sanctuary, 4 PM

February 2020

- 9 FAITH+WORKS: [Jazz Service] Ray Johnston , Sanctuary, 4 PM
- 17 Building Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM

March 2020

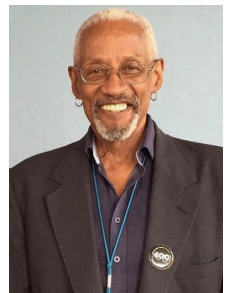
- ?? Board of Trustees, via video chat, TBA
- 16 Building Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 22 FAITH+WORKS: *Bard Prison Initiative*, Dr. Robert Fullilove , Sanctuary, 4 PM

FAITH + WORKS (cont.)

22 Mar *Bard Prison Initiative* Dr. Robert Fullilove Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove

The struggle to eliminate mass incarceration is the civil rights challenge of the 21st century. The role of the Bard Prison Initiative in this struggle will be highlighted in this presentation. Dr. Fullilove will be describing his 10 years of teaching as part of the Bard Prison Initiative where I serve as senior adviser for public health and of my work connecting mass incarceration in the US to health disparities.

Dr. Robert Fullilove is associate dean for community and minority affairs and professor of sociomedical sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.



Jan Term: Finding What We're For and Fighting for What We Love

Hosted by the University of Orange & the HUUB
 Saturday, 18 January 2020 at 3 PM



The People's Platform for Equity: Finding What We're FOR and Fighting for What We LOVE with Dominic Moulden

This workshop builds on the work of the 400 Years of Inequality initiative and invites us to participate in making a People's Platform for Equity. During the workshop we will practice shifting from fear into "finding what we're FOR." Our team will discuss the importance of working in coalition and grounding ourselves for organizing work.

Dominic T. Moulden is a longtime resource organizer at Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC), a collectively-led organization that builds people power and economic and racial equity in Washington, DC. He is a frequent lecturer at various universities and conferences regarding equitable revitalization, cooperative economics, affordable housing, workplace democracy, community development, and public policy. Moulden is also a community-accountable photographer and social justice documentarian. A native of east Baltimore, his images celebrate Black love and resilience while providing uncompromising witness to the ongoing displacement of Afrodiasporic people in Baltimore and elsewhere in the Americas. His creative practice and organizing work are both dedicated to fostering a culture of health that includes art, joy, and radical resource redistribution.

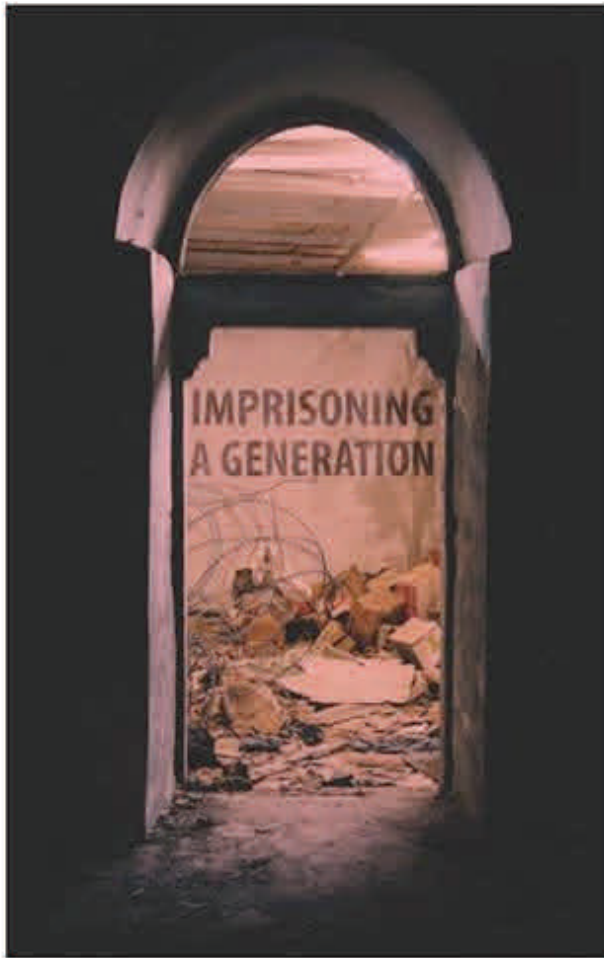
Dominic is UofO's inaugural Ernest Thompson Fellow for Program and Coalition. Our Fellowship is named for Ernest Thompson, a union leader and civil rights pioneer who started organizing in Orange, NJ, in 1957. He wrote a book about the story of his work in Orange called, "Homeboy Came to Orange: A Story of People's Power." It focused on what Thompson thought was the great lesson of the work, the use of coalition to build power for the people.



Phoebe & Her Unicorn By Dana Simpson



Imprisoning a Generation



film screening
& interactive
discussion

INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Barbara Prempeh,
Vice President, NJ Chapter,
Association of Black
Psychologists

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION:

Ms Jessica Heller,
MPS/ATR-BC LCAT,
psychotherapist & art therapist

Saturday
Jan. 25th, 2 – 4 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Montclair
67 Church Street, Montclair, N.J.

event proudly presented by
Northern N.J. Jewish Voice for Peace
cosponsored by

American Muslims for Palestine
Incarceration Nation
NJ Association of Black Psychologists
NJ Peace Action
Occupy Bergen County
Palestinian American Community Center
Peoples' Organization for Progress
Veterans for Peace Chapter 021,
Northern New Jersey



We are asking
our friends and
allies to call
their House
representative
to support HR
2407, the "No
Way to Treat a
Child" act.

Join our conversations!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JVPNoNJ/>

Twitter @jvplivennj e-mail: jvp.nj@gmail.com



UUCM To Host the 2020 Martin Luther King Day Interfaith Worship Service for Montclair!

For the first time, UUCM will host Montclair Township's Interfaith MLK Day service on Monday, **January 20, 2020** from Noon to 2:00 PM! **This Year's service is titled: *A Dream Deferred*.** Help us be great hosts for this special community event. We will have a full house, including setting up projection and overflow seating in Fletcher Hall. Therefore we will need extra help for technology, but due to the number of folks in attendance there will not be a 'reception' afterward. Please sign up to assist - but even if you do not sign up, come and be a warm welcoming presence who brings the best face of UUCM to this important event. Contact Rev Scott for more details at revscott@uumontclair.org.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION AT MONTCLAIR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY SERVICE

*A Dream
Deferred*



MONDAY
JANUARY **20**
12-2PM **ALL ARE WELCOME**
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by Montclair African American Clergy Association (MAACA), The Montclair Clergy Association (MCA), The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Montclair Branch, Montclair Councilwoman Dr. Baskerville, and the Montclair 4th Ward Collective.

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
47 Cleveland St.
Orange NJ 07050-2709

Office & Meeting Address:
35 Cleveland St
Orange NJ 07050-2709

Office Hours: Mondays thru
Thursdays, 11 AM—3 PM

Church Phone: 973-674-0010
HUUB Email: office@orangehuub.org
Church Liaison: liaison@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

President: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Vice President: Frank Barszcz

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

HUUB Director: Charlie Wirene

Administrative Officer: Holly Barszcz

**Church Liaison & Newsletter Editor:
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 Society of Newark in 1834.



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

47 Cleveland St
Orange NJ 07050-2709

Making the connections

