



Josh's Journal

Theme of the Month: Risk

Risk is something that we think about a great deal at church. One wouldn't think of church as being a particularly risky place I suppose, but it can be. Anytime one is managing a large organization with lots of money and people involved, risk becomes an element.

Risk arises because we do not know the future. We can never know with 100% certainty what will happen to us or to the people we love. One day during the football season last month, I was listening to the sports news and they were talking about player injuries. One fellow said, "Well, the running back's knee isn't as bad as they feared. He is listed as day-to-day." To which his companion responded, "Yeah, but aren't all of us day-to-day?" How true.

Often we think of risk as a bad thing. The word carries with it a connotation of danger. Yet if we took no risks we would never learn. We would never grow. We would never live. Everything we do is based on a subconscious educated guess that we know what will happen as a result of our actions. Most of the time we are right, but life has a way of surprising us. It is our ability to be surprised, to NOT know what the future will hold even when we think we do, that makes life interesting. Not pleasant all of the time, but certainly interesting.

Sometimes I wonder if the importance Unitarian Universalists place on reason as a central component in religion has the unintended consequence of making us too risk-avoidant by insisting that we have a plan that crosses all the "T's and dots all the "I's." Yes, one should research a big decision. It is foolish to walk through life ignorant about one's choices. But while reason is necessary, it isn't sufficient. At some point, we have to take a leap, follow our gut, and choose bold over mild — as Anthony Robinson once put it. Can we be disappointed? Of course. Could the reward be worth it? Sure. Is the possibility of failure part of what makes life thrilling? Absolutely.

Where do you play it too safe? Of course, safety is important, but where have you taken it to the extreme? Why? Imagine what taking even a small risk might look like. Write it down, read it over and over. Then jump.

May You Be Blessed Always,
Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

Upcoming Services

February 5: Rev. Alison Hyder. "Scars." Life is change. The events are different, but the effect is the same. Each one is the result of pain, joys, and compromise. What can we learn from the accidents of existence?

February 12: The Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder. "When in Our Music." Today we celebrate Scott Ward's 20th Anniversary as the Music Director at First Unitarian Church! In honor of this grand occasion, we will be celebrating the role music plays in our congregation, generally speaking. As the hymn says, music moves us beyond the merely rational and engages our deeper selves. Come join the celebration of music and Scott's service to our congregation!

February 19: Rev. Lisa G. Ward, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County in Churchville, Maryland will be our guest preacher this Sunday. Lisa is always a welcome guest and has a certain musical brother.

February 26: Rev. Paula Maiorano, Wilmington community minister and church member. "Beyond the Sins of Innocence." In 1972 federal and state prisons nationally held 196,000 inmates. Today they hold 2.2 million. About half are African American men. The numbers of Latinos are rising rapidly. When studied, a new and insidious form of structural racism is revealed, where a felony record leads to disenfranchisement and often a life sentence of poverty. Those who understand it best call it *The New Jim Crow*, also the name of a book from civil rights activist Michelle Alexander. Our nation needs a contemporary civil rights movement that creates a sea change of consciousness in the unaware. As people of faith, we are called by our moral imperative to move beyond innocence into the actions of justice-making. Imagining how is to begin.

Rev. Maiorano is founder and executive director of the non-profit agency A Center for Relational Living and its Second Chances Prison Re-entry Program.

Ends Survey

Every year the First Unitarian Church assesses our progress in meeting the congregation's Ends. This year, Rev. Alison has amended the survey to deepen the questions and help us serve and support each other better. We mailed it to people who do not get email, so please call the office if you haven't got one yet. Please respond to the survey by **February 5th** to help us reach our goals.

“Perspectives”

“A sheltered life can be a daring life as well, for all serious daring comes from within.” – Eudora Welty.

Perhaps all humans have some particular fear – a phobia or an aversion – that predominates over the rest. I am not afraid of heights. I rather like speaking in public, and I got over snakes and spiders when I was a child. I still find worms really yucky but I move them to safety when I can – with a stick. I’ve been in the Projects and the Amazon River, which is so brown you can’t see the piranhas underneath. But I am afraid of water. The only time I have ever panicked was when I was knocked over by waves in Ogunquit, Maine. I really prefer not to get in over my head.

But courage is not limited to our bodies. There are many dangers that affect our attitudes and our self-esteem, and these are much more deadly to our souls. How many times have we been taught to be afraid of people with different accents or beliefs? We are warned that they can destroy our customs or even take over our identity. They are a threat to our morality. It’s a perennial cry, as old as civilization. The Chinese created systems of class through rituals and education. Jewish law was designed to keep the ancient Israelites separate from the local heathen people with their nasty, licentious ways. In America, music became the threat that led good (white) kids into a frenzy of jazz, jitterbugs, and hip hop. And yet every generation has pushed the boundaries, walked to the edge, and taken off. Humans are made to take risks. It’s in our DNA. We have to grow or we die.

Risk can come in many forms. For some it is the threat of poverty and limitation. It could be failure and humiliation. For others it is a terrible fear of loneliness that haunts our thoughts at night.

We can only fight our demons from within. We have to see our fears to confront them and take the actions we need to overcome the threats. But first there are two things we should know.

1.) It is okay to make mistakes. Setbacks are all a part of the struggle. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be taking a risk.

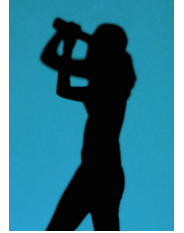
2.) You are not alone. Millions of people feel the same fears, the same insecurities and shame that you do. You may be strange, but you are not unusual. Plenty of people have worked through their pain and learned to challenge their doubts. They have changed, and so can we.

Failure is never quite so frightening as regret. So keep your feet on the floor, your head on straight, and take a chance. Dare to live your own true life.

Rev. Alison Hyder
Interim Assistant Minister

Assistant Minister Search

At a recent Search Team meeting, one of the members mused that, “I feel really good about all this. We basically can’t go wrong with any of our candidates.” This sentiment was echoed by the other members of the Search Team. We have been very blessed to be able to interview some wonderful ministers. This month we will be working our way down to the final round of interviews. We are right on track to be able to make an offer in mid-March.



The Search Team would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful responses to our survey and the rich discussion we had in December at our forum. These conversations have proven invaluable to us as we have responded to candidate’s questions. Excellent work, everyone!

World Religions

On Wednesday nights starting in late March, Rev. Alison would like to lead a discussion of world religions using the book *God is Not One* by Stephen Prothero. He says that to claim that all religions are the same is to misunderstand that each attempts to solve a different human problem. For example:

- Islam: the problem is pride / the solution is submission.
- Christianity: the problem is sin / the solution is salvation.
- Confucianism: the problem is chaos / the solution is social order.
- Buddhism: the problem is suffering / the solution is awakening.
- Judaism: the problem is exile / the solution is to return to God.

Prothero reveals each of these religions on its own terms as a guide for anyone who wants to understand the big questions human beings have asked for millennia – and the disparate paths we are taking to answer them today.

In order to get a discount on the \$16 price, Alison would like to order the books in advance, so if you would like to participate in the group, please contact Alison@FirstUWilm.org or call her at the church.

What gives life and strength to First Unitarian Church? What's possible for our future?

The First Unitarian Board of Trustees invites you to participate in "Mission Possible"

Help make our future happen by participating in "Mission Possible." This project will rely on Appreciative Inquiry, a proven method of discovering our best ideas through our personal stories. We will focus on what's right with our church — what we most appreciate about it. Think for a moment about what connects you to First Unitarian, about your most memorable experiences, and about how we might build on those positive moments in the years ahead. When you join these conversations, your voice will be heard — and you will share your vision for First Unitarian.

Mission Possible: Appreciative Inquiry Workshops

Who should attend?

You should, whether you've been here two months or 50 years, whether you're a youth or one of our elders, whether you are thrilled by First Unitarian or concerned about its direction— when you join these important conversations, your voice will be heard and you will be able to share your vision for First Unitarian with others.

Attend one of these open community meetings OR contact us to schedule a session just for your small group, working group, social justice group, CYRE, Choir, etc.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Thursday, Feb. 23, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., Parish Hall

To schedule a workshop for your committee or group:

Donna Gonzalez: (302) 479-0425 or DLG579@verizon.net

Barry Marrs: (610) 388-7103 or barrymarrs@verizon.net

Questions? Contact: Jeff Lott: (302) 690-5489 or jeffrey.lott@me.com

Susan's Membership Message

Lately there seem to be more conversations in my head. You know, on-going chatter: "Gee, the dog is limping; I wonder what's wrong. I must remember to get to the bank today. I wonder how Mary is doing after her operation? I've got to find that passport application and get it to the post office. Next week is my doctor's appointment. That was such a nice dinner last night at Maria and Alan's." And on and on. I refer to them affectionately as "conversations with myself in the theater of my mind." Most of the time I enjoy them; they make me laugh and remind me what a full life I have.

Sometimes, though, when I want some peace and quiet, I have to find a way to turn off the chitchat. Since I've never been much good at meditating, sitting quietly doesn't work well for me....the chatter just gets louder. What I've learned to do instead is sit with pencil in hand and allow those dialogues to flow onto paper. I don't worry about grammar or spelling or about anyone reading what I've written. I just let the words flow until my mind empties sufficiently to give me some breathing room. Then, with my mind emptied of minutiae, I am able to get in touch with my feelings, re-set priorities, make decisions, sometimes even just go to sleep. It's a very centering experience.

In every newcomer class, I talk about the importance of finding a spiritual practice....something that brings us back to our center-of-being, our authentic self. There is an endless list to choose from, and some will work for us better than others. We come to this faith community because we can't find our authentic ourselves out there in the culture of instant messaging and hype. It's inside us, in the dark, in the quiet.

Susan Madison
Membership Coordinator

Gayla Dance

The Gayla Dance is scheduled for Friday, March 30 from 8 p.m. - midnight at the Sheraton Wilmington South in New Castle, with live music provided by the Brandywine Swing Band and DJ Mark. Ticket prices are \$10 for teens, \$25 for adults and \$45 for couples, with a cash bar. We are now looking for people to help promote the event in the community and sell tickets to friends or at the event. We also need people to work with the youth group to provide coat checking and a photography service to raise funds for their GA trip. The Gayla Dance is a great way for Straight, Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Trans people to celebrate legal Civil Unions in Delaware together in community. Proceeds from the dance will benefit state Gay-Straight Alliances. Best yet, it's going to be a lot of fun! Please contact Alison@FirstUWilm.org.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets weekly from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in Brunner Chapel.
No registration is required and child care is available.

Religion and Ethics Newsweekly – First Sunday of the Month

This fascinating PBS series explores world events from the perspective of a variety of world religions, as well as the current-day tribulations and triumphs within communities of faith. Come to discuss the intersection of faith, ethics and our times.

Lecture Series: "Comparative Religion" – Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of the Month

In the video lecture series, Professor Charles Kimball of the University of Oklahoma uses five major religions to illustrate how religions can address the same core issues in different ways. This religious exploration can help deepen our own understanding of other faiths and enhance our perception of events in an increasingly diverse world. Professor Kimball is the author of the highly acclaimed book *When Religion Becomes Evil*.

February Discussion Schedule

Feb. 12: The Problems of Sin and Forgiveness

Feb. 19: Breaking Through the Illusion of Reality

Feb. 26: The Goals of Religious Life

Sunday Hospitality

Ask anyone and they'll tell you: the scrumptious refreshments served on Sunday morning are one of the reasons we all stick around after worship to visit and conduct business. Although many of our church groups will continue to provide food for us in the New Year, we currently have four slots we need to fill if we are to continue this weekly practice of radical hospitality.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to provide refreshments on Sunday morning, here is your opportunity! Whether you are a church member or a friend, ask a friend or two or three if they would like to join you in bringing refreshments for a particular Sunday....or if you are a self-employed member and would like to "Sponsor-a-Sunday" by advertising your services via this venue, let us know. You can sign up to host on the Sign-up Sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office or by emailing our Sunday scheduler Karen Austin (austinkaren88@yahoo.com). We welcome your participation, and will follow-up with procedural information. Available dates are March 25, April 8, May 20, and June 27. If you require further information, please contact Membership Coordinator Susan Madison (susan@firstuuwilm.org).

Where in the world is Scott Ward?

Well, mid-March, I will be in Africa, specifically, the Ivory Coast. A friend of mine invited me to visit his family; he has not seen them in twelve years. This will be both a trip of pleasure, but also a trip of study. The capitol, known by several names, is the home to literally thousands of mosques and churches. I will be visiting as many as I can, including the largest indoor Catholic Church in the World. I will be gone 10 - 11 days.

When I come back, I will offer a two-session Adult RE class to talk about my experience, share my observations about religion in the Ivory Coast, and of course, the music of the church.

I will be staying mostly in Abidjan. My friend Mohamed (Momo for short) is part of a well-connected family, including an Interior Minister, a highly regarded physician, and a lawyer, etc. I will be very well taken care of. So wish me luck on the great adventure!

Our Own Food Pantry

The Living On Less team has started our own Food Pantry for First U members and friends in the landing outside the basement bathrooms under the Sanctuary. It is discreet and self-managed: if you can contribute non-perishable food, please put it on the shelf. If you need something, simply take it. This is a small, low-maintenance venture so we are not advertising it in the community. If you have questions or would like to oversee the project, please speak to Rev. Alison.



New Name, Same Great Service!

Life is about growth, and the best proof of that has come from the work of this congregation. For over 50 years, the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington has been growing our denomination by seeding other Unitarian Universalist congregations in Delaware and the surrounding region. Starting with Newark in 1955, Wilmington has helped to found seven congregations in Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Southern New Jersey. Our commitment of money and mentoring has added at least 600 Unitarian Universalists to the denomination, enriching the region with their curiosity, commitment, and liberal religious values.

If you recall the joy and astonishment you felt when you discovered our faith, we invite you to join the Denominational Growth Committee, the new and more descriptive name for the Growth Committee. You'll get a chance to meet other Unitarian Universalists, visit UU churches in the region, and get a sense of the different ways that we live out our beliefs. It is exciting to help our denomination grow and know that we are helping other people to find a place where they can affirm their beliefs and their own search for truth and meaning.

The Denominational Growth Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Library. Show up, or contact Vivian Gray: vagray@rcn.com or Noreen Bayley: noreen404@verizon.net to learn more about how you can help share our faith.

Pajama Bingo Night

at

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington

Saturday, February 25th

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

\$5 a person*

Childcare will be provided for children 4 yrs of age and under.

Enjoy pizza and drinks.

It's BYOB, so bring your friends and your favorite bottle of wine.

Pajamas are encouraged but, not required.

You could win big!

We're having a 50/50 Raffle.

Plus the Grand Prize of One Ticket to the All Church Fall Retreat.

Please RSVP with Alice Leonard at 302-981-9021

**All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for the All-Church Retreat.*



Office Ministration

Our fiscal year is half over, and our operating budget is in good shape. As of December 31, 2011, our income was at \$457,652 or 99.8% of our budget for this period. Our expenses remain below budget at \$364,210, or 93.9% of our planned expenses for this point in the fiscal year.

Traditionally, December is a big month for donations and this past month fit that pattern. As usual, we are running a surplus for the year to date. However, donation levels drop in the second half of the fiscal year, and we traditionally use the surplus in December to carry us through to the end of the fiscal year in June.

We are projecting that by the end of the year our expenses and income will even out, and we will end the year with a balanced budget. Of course, our success depends on our generous donors and your commitment to the church. In January, we sent out giving statements to everyone with the status of your pledge accounts, as well as your tax information for calendar year 2012. Please contact either Marina or Brandi in the church office if you have any questions about your giving accounts.

Happy Valentine's Day to all our generous donors. Your donations are truly appreciated!

Taking care of business,
Marina VanRenssen, Business Manager

Be a snitch!

Our Caring Friends teams cannot help unless we learn someone needs us. PLEASE call the church office to report your own need or the needs of others. Do not worry about duplicate calls for the same person. We are troubled when no one informs us and we can't help.

Particularly, we need information about hospitalizations. Because of the HIPPA law, hospitals can give no information, even to the clergy. Our ministers need to know the facility and specific room number in order to call or visit.

We are a caring community. Help us to help you, your family or your friend.

Looking for Talent in all styles!

Our annual talent show will be Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m. We are looking for people who want to share their talents in an informal, supportive environment.

We need singers, dancers, comics, poets, you name it. Here is an incentive: both our ministers will be participating.

Contact Scott Ward if you are interested. He can supply accompaniment, coaching, and whatever else you need. Don't be shy! Sign up today!

Contact Scott by e mail: iamscottw@aol.com.

First Unitarian Church – we have been in the news!

Recently there were two articles in the local paper which mentioned Unitarian Universalism and local community action.

We posted links to both of these on our Facebook page, [https://](https://www.facebook.com/firstuuwilm)

www.facebook.com/firstuuwilm – if you didn't see them yet, stop by and check them out.

All church members are encouraged to go to our Facebook page, "like" us, and post items of interest or for discussion. When you "like" us you can post photos, links, and share information about our church and the larger community, and learn about our activities.

Does your group have a fun activity coming up? A special outreach program? Be sure to let us know. In addition to Facebook, you can send in articles to our Publications Assistant, Kanchalee Reeves, at Kanchalee@firstuuwilm.org for publication in our newsletters, *This Week* insert and weekly E-News. Have questions about what and how to promote something? Talk to your staff person, who can guide you on making information available to the congregation. You can also go to our web site, and in the members area there is a wealth of information on how to "do things" at First U.

If you need the user name and password for the web site, please call the church office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., M-F, or stop in the office on Sunday morning.

Celebrate Scott's 20th Anniversary!

Help us honor Scott Ward, our Music Director and Honorary Minister of Music at First Unitarian for 20 years! Join us in the Parish Hall on February 12th after the service.

You are welcome to contribute to a purse for Scott. **Please note – instructions have changed:** IF you give cash, please place it in a sealed, clearly marked envelope (e.g., "Scott's 20th Ann.") and personally deliver it to a church office staff member. OR, **make a check out to Scott Ward.** You can drop the check in the Sunday collection during a service, take it to the church office personally, or mail it. Please feel free to do this anytime before February 12th.

We are also making a memory book. Look for a table in the Parish Hall after Sunday services where you can pick up pages to use for your submission. See June Peterson, Nan Norling, or Jan Shay with questions. Time is short, so please drop off your completed submission at the Parish Hall table or in the church office on Sunday, February 5th. **The final due date for submissions will be February 9th.**



Sunday Morning “Faithful Dialogues”
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Room 25 • Child Care Is Available

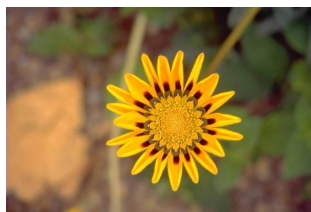
Sunday morning *Faithful Dialogues* is a time when various members and friends from our First U family lead discussions on a variety of topics rooted in our UU Principles. Each dialogue is stand alone and **registration is not required**. Just show up and get to know someone new!

February “Faithful Dialogues” - Sundays 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Room: 25

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|---------|--|---------------------------|
| Feb. 5 | Chalice Lighters: UUs healing the world one church at a time. Today is Chalice Lighters Sunday, come learn how Chalice Lighters’ grants support congregations committed to <i>be anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural religious associations working to eradicate racism and all forms of oppression in Unitarian Universalist institutions and the larger community. Growth can be counted in numbers, but also in justice, compassion, and spirituality.</i> | Joan Priest |
| Feb.12 | A Journey to Sangha: This class introduces us to meditation in a mindful community or “sangha.” Many people have been intrigued by Buddhist-inspired readings, try to sit meditation on their own, but find it very difficult to sustain a practice. Ben will talk about his experiences and what led him over the past 20 years to practice meditation with a sangha, including First U’s very own Open Heart Zen Sangha (OHZS) which meets weekly. Ben will guide us in a metta or “loving kindness” meditation to give us a taste of the weekly practice! This introduction may intrigue you enough to join Open Heart Zen Sangha one Wednesday evening or to participate in one of Ben’s “day of mindfulness” retreats. | Ben Fleury-Steiner |
| Feb.19 | Conversation on Being: Barry discusses how he, as a scientist, wrestles with the feeling/thinking duality of the human experience. | Barry Marrs |
| Feb. 26 | How I Came to Believe: Dale discusses how she came to a big picture spiritual perspective and how it guides her daily life and relationships. For Dale it has been a faith journey with a metaphysical perspective. | Dale Megill |

ARE Table: Visit the Adult Religious Exploration table during coffee hour after Sunday services for information about First U programs. You will also find information about national and international UU organizations that are “Healing the World” by applying our UU Principles around the globe.

Celebrating Nature
Through the Art of Photography



Our Green Sanctuary Committee is planning a photography exhibit during February (A good time to enjoy the outdoors through photographs!) We plan to display your works in Parish Hall, the Foyer, and the hallway outside

Brunner Chapel. We hope to have a good response to our request for photographs and can change the display as often as necessary so that everyone is honored. Please provide labels for your photos.

If you would like to participate, please send your photographs to Suzie Cornell by **February 10th**. We look forward to hearing from you and to viewing your photos in February.

Suzie Cornell (610) 925-0510; suzcornell@verizon.net
 Scott Ward at iamscottw@aol.com

Living on Less

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m.
 Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2-3:30 p.m.

Open to everyone, this group gives you a place to discuss the practical and emotional challenges of the current economy. Whether you are worried about your income, your self-image, or an uncertain future, it’s better to talk it through. Join Rev. Alison to share your concerns and discuss practical solutions.

Grow Your Faith

Rev. Alison will be offering “Our Unitarian Universalist Story” on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. for 5 weeks from February 15th through March 14th. This class will help you to explore and discuss your Unitarian Universalist beliefs through the history of our movement. All are welcome. Please sign up at the Adult RE table after worship or email Alison@FirstUUWilm.org.

Board Planks

In his book *A Door Set Open*, Peter Steinke writes “Mission is the expression of the church’s deep, abiding beliefs. Mission provides the major standard against which all activities, services, and decisions are evaluated. Mission is the preserver of congregational integrity....A major function of the congregation’s stewards is to be the creators and guardians of the mission.” We are all stewards of First Unitarian.

As a group, the Board has been discussing our views of the values and beliefs that we share as members of this church. And now we begin the process of reaching out to you to hear your experiences through our Mission Possible Project. Please join us as a small group or come to an open workshop. We look forward to hearing from you!! Look for details on page 3.

Sincerely, *Your Board of Trustees*

Matt and Mindie – an ILYA Holiday Story

Twins Matt and Mindie turn 18! That sounds exciting until you learn they are in foster care and turning 18 means “aging-out” of the system. They will no longer live in a foster home and might have to “couch-surf” for months with friends who don’t really have the room but want to help them out of a jam.

Fortunately for the twins, the state of Delaware has developed a State Housing Authority Rental Voucher program. Matt and Mindie were among the first to receive these vouchers. They met with Governor Markell and shared their appreciation of the program [see *News Journal* article “[Vouchers Help Institutionalized Relocate Back into Community.](#)”

At the meeting, the twins also described how grateful they were to **First Unitarian Church** for providing them with support. For example, Matt now has a bed. And, both received holiday gifts. On their “holiday wish lists” they hoped for dishes, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, towels, a vacuum cleaner, and a bus pass. Seven **First U** “Santa’s” furnished all of these things. Matt said that the vacuum cleaner alone would have made his Christmas! Now Matt and Mindie share an apartment in New Castle and can complete their high school degrees. By the way, ILYA just provided a supportive grant to the twins’ sister so she could pay a security deposit for her own apartment.

Thank you to all who have donated to ILYA this year. We don’t always get to find out how our support has helped, so this was a fine holiday gift to us!

February Special Offering UUH Outreach Program

Our February Special Collection is for the UUH Outreach Program. Although **Unitarian Universalist House** in Germantown closed last summer, the UUH Outreach Program is continuing the long tradition of highly personalized service to older adults in the Northwest Philadelphia community. The Outreach Program is founded and rooted in the Unitarian Universalist principles, particularly profound respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every older person. Outreach staff work directly with older adults in a variety of ways to help them remain independent in their own homes as long as possible. Outreach is seeking support for its Client Assistance Fund, which provides small grants to Outreach clients; every dollar raised goes directly to an older adult in need. Please give generously.

Growing Unitarian Universalism on \$1.15 a week

The Joseph Priestley District Chalice Lighters program provides much-needed grant money to organize new congregations, hire professional staff, acquire land or buildings, and fund innovative growth efforts in existing Unitarian Universalist societies, fellowships and congregations in the JPD. One hundred percent of all donations from nearly 2,800 pledge units, averaging just \$1.15/week per unit, goes directly to congregations to fund expansion needs.



Over 29% of First Unitarian members and friends already participate in Chalice Lighters, but we can do better! 50% of the members of the new Central Delaware congregation are already Chalice Lighters.

This Sunday, February 5, you will be asked to support the vital work of this program. Donation “calls” are made three times each year by e-mail, with a suggested minimum donation amount of \$20 per e-mailed “call.”

No donation will be required at the time you sign up. All it takes is two minutes of time to add your spark to the Chalice Lighters flame and see how much brighter the light will shine for congregations in need...all for much less than the price of one cup of coffee each week.

Ministry of Compassionate Action at First Unitarian

First U's Ministry of Compassionate Action includes all who work "under the umbrella of social action." Do you have information to share about your social action work? Next *Quest* deadline is February 10. Contact: lynningersoll@gmail.com.

Allies for Racial Justice – *MLK Day a Strong Start!*

Allies for Racial Justice sponsors programs and events to educate members and friends of First Unitarian Church on issues of racism and oppression. We create partnerships with other local congregations and institutions committed to ending racism, and engage in acts of service and justice in the community. Our first Martin Luther King Day of Service was held last month at First Unitarian, and was a great success! To be involved, contact Jennifer Phillips at main@imageeverything.com.

The Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C³SA): *Building a Movement*

Tony Newey is an environmental leader in the Walnut Creek, CA Mt. Diablo UU Church, which introduced the Climate Change Study and Action issue at the 2004 UUA General Assembly. After it was adopted, we formed the interdenominational C3SA, which now involves six area churches of various faiths. Two years later our church played a major role in writing the UUA 2006 Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change (www.uua.org/statements/statements/8061.shtml) and getting it passed by the GA. This past September, Tony invited Bill McKibben – an international leader in climate change action, author of the book *Earth*, and founder of www.350.org - to speak at the Mt. Diablo church. His team has produced an inspiring 50-minute video, *Building a Movement to Solve the Climate Crisis*, which we hope to show and discuss soon at First U. If you are not able to attend, the video has been posted on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR9SKghzXvs>. Seeing it will help you understand why I believe climate change poses the greatest moral and ethical challenge of our time – demanding a response by all those who call themselves religious. To learn more or to help, contact me, Chad Tolman at: chadtolman@verizon.net

Green Sanctuary – *Check your Energy Usage!*

Colder weather is definitely here. Now is the time to check for those small air leaks in your home around window sashes and doors, dryer and fan vents, electrical outlets and light switches. Your Green Sanctuary Team has a Thermal Leak Detector that you can borrow! While you're doing that, plug your refrigerator, freezer, computer or other appliance into our Energy Usage Meter and see what it costs to use per week, day, or month. To see how they work, go to YouTube, search for "thermal leak detector" or "kill-a-watt ez." There are many review and instructional videos. Contact Randy Windle at randy.judyw@verizon.net to sign up, or to get more information.

Emmanuel Dining Room (with Thanksgiving Pies!)

Our chicken shepherd's pie casseroles were again well received by the several hundred December 20th diners. Thanks to the cooking and serving crew: Karen Austin, Cindy Cohen, Jan Jones, Henrietta McKelvey, Carol & Jerry Okeson, Nancy Pinson, Barbara Pratt, and Bob Ullrich. If you'd like to join in on the fun, we're cooking every month on the 19th and serving on the 20th, and love to meet new folks. Just contact Cindy Cohen at cindyscohen@comcast.net for more info.

EDR's International Nights

Our 'fun for a good cause' out-to-dinner opportunities will start up again in January. These monthly International Dinners benefit Emmanuel Dining Room. Mark your calendars for Polish Night on January 22nd, hosted by St. Hedwig's Polish Kitchen and the Knights of Columbus St. John Paul II Council. Looking ahead, February 26th will be Spanish Night, hosted by the Teixido Family of Harry's Savoy Grill, and March 25th Irish Night, hosted by the Del Tech Culinary Arts Program. Contact David Weiss at david.weiss@state.de.us or phone 302-668-7431 for details.

ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults): – *Help Needed ... and Heads Up!*

ILYA needs volunteers in our efforts to help young people who go from having a roof over their heads one day and – Happy 18th Birthday! – have nothing the next day. Our members have enabled many former foster kids to furnish apartments by donating unused items from their homes [see 'Matt and Mindie – An ILYA Holiday Story' on page 8 of this issue of *Quest*]. But pickup and delivery take time and muscles, work and trucks. Can you help?

Do you – or a friend – have a pickup or similar small truck and would be willing to drive periodically for pickups and/or deliveries? If not, do you have muscles and can go along to help with pickups and/or deliveries? Contact J. Harry Feldman, Furniture Coordinator, at 654-0681 or (better) JHarryF@aol.com.

FYI: Watch for info about a Mentoring Orientation at First U March 1. Contact Jen Bruhler: jenbruhler@hotmail.com

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): *Reach out and connect*

Reach out and connect with UUSC staff, partners, and programs on social media. Join the close circle of approximately 7,000 friends, fans, and followers on Facebook, Flickr, Tumblr, Twitter, and YouTube. And, meet UUSC's new friend, Google+ (a new page recently started). These are all easy ways to stay informed and involved. UUSC President Rev. Bill Schulz (remember his inspirational presentation at First UU this past November?) is also eager to connect with you and other UUSC supporters in 2012. Please welcome him to Facebook by sending him a friend request. Or follow him on Twitter. You can make a difference, if you stay informed and stay connected and stay committed. Contact Doyle Dobbins at D.Dobbins@verizon.net.

Church Staff

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Reverend Dr. Joshua Snyder | Senior Minister Josh@firstuuwilm.org |
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Executive Team Portfolios

Rev. Snyder — Membership, Leadership Development, Social Justice, Long Range Planning, Buildings and Grounds, Worship

Rev. Hyder — Caring Friends, Adult RE, CYRE, Connections, Communications

Marina VanRenssen — Finance, Personnel, Green Sanctuary, Growth Team

Non-Board Officer

Steve Cohen Treasurer

This *QUEST* covers February 1 to 29, 2012. The **next** *QUEST* newsletter will cover events from March 1 to 31, 2012.

QUEST is a monthly newsletter publication of the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware.

Submission deadline for *QUEST* is by noon on the 15th of each month for events the following month.

Any announcement suggestions for the **Order of Service** and the **Broadcast E-news** must be in by Tuesdays at noon and may also be sent to programadmin@firstuuwilm.org and will be placed according to available space. If possible, please make submissions via E-mail. Otherwise, neatly prepared copy can be submitted to the Program Administrator's mail box in the church office.



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February 2012

Our Purpose:

First Unitarian Church is a caring, diverse faith community, rooted in UU principles, inspiring and celebrating lives of inclusion, justice, and love.