



**F**IRST  
**U**NITARIAN  
**S**OCIETY OF  
**P**LAINFIELD



Interim Minister.....Anthony Johnson  
Religious Ed. Dir.....Sue Fertig  
Music Director.....Gail Slater  
Office Administrator.....Louise Polli  
Phone: 908-756-0750 Fax: 908-769-0452  
[www.fusp.org](http://www.fusp.org) (see back page for e-mails)

Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

June 2009

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**May 31 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks**

### NURTURE YOUR SPIRIT

This sermon title, and next week's, come from a UUA bumper sticker and advertising campaign. This morning we look at what draws people to a Unitarian Universalist congregation and what keeps them here. What do you find here that nurtures your spirit?

**June 7 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks**

### HELP HEAL OUR WORLD

This morning we take a look at what the role of Unitarian Universalist congregations are in our local community and the bigger world in which we find ourselves. What is it we at Plainfield can do to help heal the world?

**June 14 - Rev. Johnson & Sue Fertig**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY

Join in a celebration of the educational ministry of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield! We will reflect upon the Society's year that is now winding down. We will also honor those who perform a ministry central to the life of this gathered religious community. The Religious Education Committee will host a Sundaes Reception following the service.

**June 21 - Rev. Tony Johnson**

### EXITING THE INTERSECTION - FLOWER FESTIVAL

This will be Rev. Tony's final sermon as interim minister during this year of being in the intersection. A turn at an intersection in New Jersey was a pivotal event leading to the creation of the Flower Festival/Flower Communion celebrated by the Unitarian Universalists around the world.

**June 28 - Ley-led by Heather Brown**

### CELEBRATE THE MIDSUMMER SUN

Join us in an intergenerational ritual celebrating the summer season and the power of the sun! We will take a look at the history of solstice celebrations, the worship of sun deities, and the significance of the sun in our own lives, while enjoying musical performances, and a fun skit.

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## **THE VIEW FROM PARK AND SEVENTH — REV. TONY JOHNSON**

Our time together in the intersection is drawing to a close. I will have more to say about this in a report to the congregation and in my final sermon, on June 21st. Now I have two comments to make.

First, I have endorsed the Rev. Peter Morales for election as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I have done so because he has shown in his career, first in business and then in ministry, the ability to work toward the future. His campaign slogan is “We can be the religion for our time.” I agree. Ours is a time of a rapidly diversifying society and an increasingly complex culture. Peter Morales is the candidate for our time not only because he himself is bicultural, but also because he has worked effectively with diverse markets and constituencies as a journalist, a publisher and, since 1999, as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Jefferson Church in Golden, Colorado, where he is senior minister, is one of the fastest growing congregations in the Association. The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield has four lay delegate votes and its minister has a vote. I am not attending General Assembly this year. But I am casting my absentee ballot for Peter Morales for UUA President.

Second – and most immediate -- your attention is now on the ministerial candidacy of the Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks, whom you will meet and get to know during the week beginning Sunday, May 31st and concluding Sunday, June 7th. As Interim Minister, I play no role in the selection of a settled minister and will be away from Plainfield during candidating week.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Rev. Johnson will be available at FUSP on Tues., Wed. and Thur., 10 AM – 3 PM, and by appointment. Please note that he will occasionally be away from the church for meetings during office hours so it is best to call ahead. In an emergency the office administrator will be able to reach him and he checks voice mail on days he is not in the office.

### **ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS NEEDED**

The June 28 intergenerational service contains a short skit, and a John Denver Song, as well as other songs and readings. If you would be interested in participating as an actor, singer, reader, or guitar player please contact Heather Brown at [heathbrown@aol.com](mailto:heathbrown@aol.com). Rehearsals for the skit will be on June 21.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## BLESSED ARE THOSE

*(6th stanza)*

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do it gladly; who realize that change is brought about through human meeting, who do the work of committees, and stay till the end.

- John Buehrens

This year the Religious Education Committee has worked both diligently and intentionally to provide a program that served the needs of many. Using R.E. survey results, face-to-face contact, R.E. materials and classes, and lively committee meeting discussions which have led to a greater commitment a higher ethical and moral standard for the program. A few examples of this commitment; assigning two adults for each classroom, DRE coverage during DRE sabbatical, purchasing four copies of each needed curriculum from publisher, creating ways to add funding to the Angel Scholarship, and always challenging themselves to design and implement a program that welcomes and nurtures our families. Please give these folks a pat on the back for a job well done; Denise Soppas, Chris Baglieri, Joanne Macaluso, Martha Haviland, Kit Marlowe, Rupert Crawford, Linda Toscano, and Jim Tuite. It has been a great honor and pleasure to work with such an outstanding group of individuals.

Peace and Love,  
Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

## THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH GROUP

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth group Candygram sale for Easter! It was a great success, raising approximately \$265 for Schools for Schools, an organization that builds schools that save children in war-torn Uganda, and was very entertaining for everyone with approximately 50 candygrams delivered! Once again, thank you for your generosity and support!



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## WITH LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS

Each Sunday they enter our building with books and bags and plans for their class. They rush around making copies, finding supplies, asking for help, and welcoming their students. Before too long they're fully engaged in the task of teaching our children and youth the stories, the history, and the skills needed to make ethical and moral discussions.

These are our R.E. teachers and the work they do is enormously valuable. Please take time to thank you one or more of these exceptional individuals; Annie Reading, Christy Dobrowski, Robert Reading, Anna Leistikow, Gail Pollak, Sara Neiss, Diane Sutterlin, Matthew Reading, Lisa DeMarco, Susan Neuhaus, Nikki Sidhu, Meredith Sotoroff, Guy Mastroianni, Chris Baglieri, Kathleen Leistikow, Sal Trifiro, Kit Marlowe, Denise Pinney, George Gowen, Larry Patton, Steve Cauley, Heather Brown, Dan Zucker, Joanne Macaluso, and Grace LaForge. Many thanks for nourishing and nurturing our children and youth.



### THANK YOU FROM GRACE LAFORGE

Thank you to all FUSPers. Although you may not see me around FUSP a lot, I am there "behind the scenes", usually in the Steven's Wing and mostly with the Youth Group. I just would like to say thank you to Sue Fertig, members and families of the Youth Group and to you, the members of this Congregation for recognizing my efforts by nominating me for the Youth Advisor of the Year award. I didn't make the cut and I am glad that the recognition remained local, not national. I would like you to know that through your continuous inspiration, I am able to do this work with joy. (If you don't believe me, then stop in to the Youth Group Room some Sunday after Coffee Hour). I am proud to be part of this wonderful congregation!

With Love, Grace LaForge

# LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

## *QVO VADIS*

There is a lot going on at FUSP. Construction should start this Summer repairing our foundation. Gerry Heinzer has done a superb job in applying for grants and ensuring we meet state requirements.

The search committee has organized candidating week with a lot of thought and effort.

Gail Slater has resigned and we are considering how to replace her (I doubt if any one can match her skills and cooperativeness).

We agreed to allow a school to use our facilities to teach English. The name of the organization is Angels in Action Foundation. If you are interested in helping, please see Jody Wood, one of our newest members. Other services will be rendered to the poor.

The Board held a council meeting which resulted in some positive ideas.

All members are invited to attend the events during candidating week and attend the Special Meeting June 7th to vote on whether we should call Tracy Sprowls-Jenks as our minister.

Fred Lange, Board President

## **THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Memorial Garden was started in 1984 with a grant from the Board of Trustees. It has been self sufficient since then, funded by fees for plaques on the memorial stones and contributions. It's purpose is to provide a place for the scattering or burial of ashes of deceased members and friends of FUSP, where one can come to review lives passed and memories still fresh. The garden has no budget and the reserve is low. An anonymous member has offered to match donations made during June and July, up to \$250. This should give us the necessary cushion. Your generosity will be doubled.

I have been the Memorial Garden "committee" for about the last 15 years or so and now find that I need help in maintaining it. Plants need to be watered, weeds pulled, the area kept neat, etc. I will continue the operation of the Garden, but need a few volunteers to take on most of the physical work, with my help and guidance. Please contact me if you are able to "give a hand".

— Sandy Kaplan

# LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

## CANDIDATING WEEK ACTIVITIES

WITH THE REV. TRACY SPROWLS-JENKS

MAY 31 – JUNE 7, 2009

Sign up for activities after Worship services on Sunday morning, or contact Breda May.

### Sunday, May 31

- 10 am                      Worship Service, *Nurture Your Spirit* – Sanctuary
- 11-11:45 am              Brunch - Members meet Tracy & David Jenks - Parish Hall
- 11:45 am – 2 pm        FUSP Annual Meeting (Tracy and David meet with FUSP youth  
– Steven's Room)

### Monday, June 1

- 4:30-5:15 pm            One-on-one meetings by appt. (15 mins. each) - FUSP
- 5:30-7:15 pm            Dinner with REC – Joann Macaluso's Home
- 7:30 – 9 pm              Meet with RE Parents, RE teachers, & kids – Grace LaForge's  
Home

### Tuesday, June 2

- 1-2:45 pm                Lunch and afternoon meeting with DRE & Office Administrator
- 3-4:30 pm                Daytime meeting with members – Stevens Room
- 5-6:45 pm                Dinner with Committee on Ministry - Maureen Erwin's Home
- 7-9 pm                    Meeting with Social Justice committees – Steven's Room

### Wednesday, June 3

- 4:45 -5:15 pm            One-on-one meetings by appt. (15 mins. each) - FUSP



# LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

## CANDIDATING WEEK ACTIVITIES — CONTINUED

### Wednesday, June 3

5:30-7:15 pm Dinner with Worship, Music, Arts, Sunday morning - Sue Krisburg's Home

7:30 – 9 pm Meet with Board (old and new), Finance - Stevens Room

### Thursday, June 4

5:00–7:15 pm Dinner with search committee

7:30 -9 pm Open meeting for all members (with David & Izaak) – Parish Hall

### Friday, June 5

No activities

### Saturday, June 6

11 am – 12:15 pm Meeting with Women's Alliance and Men's Breakfast (combined) – Parish Hall

12:30-2:15 pm Lunch with Capital Campaign & Property – Angela Goldman's Home

2:30-3:15 pm One-on-one meetings by appt. (15 mins. each) - FUSP

3:30-5 pm Open session for all members (including kids & Izaak) – Allan & Martha Reading's Home

### Sunday, June 7

10 am Worship Service, *Help Heal Our World* – Sanctuary

11-11:45 am Brunch – socialize with Tracy - Parish Hall

11:45 am – 2 pm Congregational Meeting & Vote to Call – Sanctuary

# **FINANCE MINISTRY**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RECYCLING**

**July 25 and August 22** we will be at the Fanwood Recycling Center. Each day we work there FUSP receives \$225 and we help the environment. We need 12 volunteers 8:45 AM to 1 PM. All proceeds go to the operating budget to pay for staff salaries, maintenance and utilities. See Fred Lange if you can help.

## **SUPERMARKET CARDS**

For the last newsletter of the 2008-09 church year, an important question is answered. What happens to the 5% that FUSP earns on the Supermarket Cards that many of us purchase religiously? That money helps to pay the everyday expenses (minister, staff, utilities, building upkeep) of our congregation along with our pledges and rental income.

For the first nine months (7/08 to 3/09) of FY '09, our card purchases earned \$2,900; we estimate we will earn \$3,900 for the whole year. If more of our members paid for their supermarket purchases with Supermarket Cards during June, we could REACH \$4,000 for this year and exceed that amount for the next church year. Every dollar we can raise by using Supermarket Cards is one less dollar we need to contribute. All you need is a checkbook or cash on Sunday to buy the cards. They work just like a Debit Card at the store—for that store only.

Next Sunday stop at our table, and buy Supermarket Cards with check or cash for: Kings, Pathmark, Shoprite, Stop&Shop. Every \$20.00 of purchases with cards nets a painless \$1.00 for FUSP! Buy them in the Parish Hall, next to the office, during the coffee hour after services every Sunday. We do NOT stock A&P because they will not stand behind their defective cards. If someone is willing to take on the A&P corporate management & the local store, and sell the cards every Sunday, we could have A&P as well. Any questions: See us at our table, or call Pat Heath or Ralph Braskett.

## **AMAZON.COM SALES GIVE US 5%**

Click on the Amazon.com icon on the FUSP website on the lower right & the church will receive an award of 5% of sales. If you leave the Amazon web site, be sure to click on FUSP's link to get back into it. A Real Easy way to grow funds for the church!



# DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

## A FERRY BEACH PICTURE

Ferry Beach is a UU Camp & Conference Center, now over 100 years old, offering 30 + acres of natural beauty. Accommodations are provided in turn-of-the-century buildings, or your own tent or RV in the grove. Meals may be taken in the dining hall, or campers may prepare their own. All may wish to sample local cuisine as well. There are over 25 varied programs for all ages and interests to choose from – Work & Play Week in June to Homecoming (Labor Day Weekend). Ferry Beach is a spiritual home and beloved community for many who return year after year.

Summer programs include family, adult and professional/church development conferences as well as expanded youth camps. There is something for everyone – kids, parents, grandparents; singles, gays and straight. There are specific ones for –

- ◆ Kids and youth from 4th grade up, including Teen Service with Habitat for Humanity.
  - ◆ Families, (Family and Friends or UU Fellowship and Fun).
  - ◆ People who wish to work (and save \$) may come to Work and Play Week.
  - ◆ There's Religious Education, Psi Symposium, UU Heritage, body, Mind and Spirit.
  - ◆ There are weeks for quilters, fiber workers, other artisans, kayakers, choral singers and folk musicians.
  - ◆ Weeks In the Company of Women, or for gay men, or about Aging with Wisdom.
  - ◆ Reunions, Homecoming Weekend and the Ferry Beach annual Meeting at the end.
- Or you may choose to come as a vacationer for a few days as an option to a weeklong conference.

FOR INFORMATION...about this summer's programs, here's what to do...

- \* Check out the Ferry Beach website at [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)
- \* Email a request for a full conference brochure at [fbregs@maine.rr.com](mailto:fbregs@maine.rr.com).
- \* Check the church bulletin board for helpful literature.
- \* Contact Lois DeRitter with your questions.

But note, many conferences fill up fast and vacationers come on a "space available" basis, so now's a good time to paint yourself in the Ferry Beach Picture by registering before it's too late!

# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, including all sub-committees (Food Pantry, Holiday Dinners, Racial Justice, Welcoming Congregation, Homefirst, and UUSC), on Sunday, June 14 at 11:30. Food will be served and childcare will be available. We will be discussing organization for the upcoming church year including our meeting schedule, who will be serving as the heads of the sub-committees, and updating our website page. If you participate in the work of this committee and cannot attend please contact Heather Brown. All who are interested in the social justice work of this congregation are welcome to attend this meeting.

## HOMEFIRST HOSTING IN AUGUST

Beginning August 16, once again up to 14 temporarily homeless guests will be visiting FUSP through the HomeFirst organization. The guests will be housed in our RE Wing, and will be sharing the Parish Hall, kitchen, restrooms, and other common spaces. Our guests will be in the building beginning the **afternoon of Sunday, 16 August through the morning of Sunday, 23**. During most of the day guests are off site working or attending school or job training. They return in the early evening for dinner, recreation, and sleep.

There are many opportunities to support this effort. Volunteers, financial contributions and donations of toiletries and some groceries are needed for this week. Volunteers are needed to drive, shop, cook, sleep over, socialize, and more.

To help, or for more information, please contact coordinators Melissa Logan or Karen Hawkins. We had a great experience doing this in March, and look forward to working with the entire congregation to make this program a success again.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Congratulations to our youthful members celebrating a birthday in June:

**Rowan Hinds-Brown**

**Leena Prabhakar**

**Christianna Dobrowski**

**Sofia Murillo**

**Valerie Neuhaus**

**Nora Patton**

**Raya Slotoroff**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

**Jessica Toscano** is at home recovering after very serious surgery. Our best wishes to her and her family

**Gertrude Van Mater** passed away on April 17, 2009. Our sympathy to her family.

*Volunteers needed to drive members and friends to doctors' appointments etc. We could also use drivers to bring people to church on Sundays. Please contact Doris Lange.*

## DINNER TO HONOR OUTGOING MINISTER

A bring a dish will be held **June 20th at 6:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall**. The purpose is to honor Tony Johnson for the work he has performed on behalf of The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield. Daniel Bisbee will provide dancing music after the dinner. We will have to remove some tables to provide room for the dancers. If your name ends with A through D, please bring an appetizer. If your name ends with E through R, please bring a main dish. If your name ends with S through Z, please bring a dessert. If you can help or have questions, please see Fred Lange.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

I know; we "did" immigration before. But that was back in the days of the Supreme Leader, George !!. It's a different ball game now, although most of the players are the same. The newspapers say we're down to 11 million undocumented (illegal) immigrants now that the economy has tanked. What are we going to do with them, how are we going to take care of them and what will happen if prosperity returns and the ranks are swelled? Come solve the problem at the next Men's Breakfast on **June 13th**. We meet **at 9 AM in the Stevens Room**. All male members and friends are welcome.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR JULY/AUGUST

**Print/Advertising: Noon, June 8**                      **Electronic: 5 PM, June 12**  
**Assembling : June 23**                      Submit to [newsletter@fusp.org](mailto:newsletter@fusp.org) and  
[website@fusp.org](mailto:website@fusp.org) to be included on the website & in the newsletter. —  
**Priscilla**

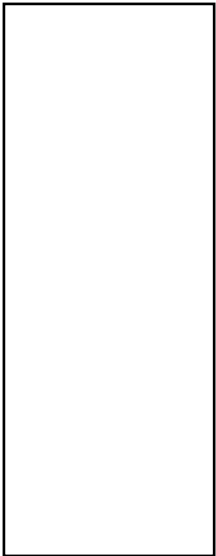


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