

August 2018

340 North Queen St. Dover, DE 19904
uucdcontact@gmail.com & UUCD.ORG

CONNECTIONS

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
OF CENTRAL DELAWARE**
A Welcoming Congregation
Chartered 2009

Sunday Services

Save These Dates

Wed 8/1, 6.30pm

Worship Committee meeting
at CBS

Mon 8/6

DIMH dinner
Head Chef: Julie Price

Sun 8/12, 11.30am

Social Justice Committee
meeting

Wed 8/8, 7-8.30pm

Mindfulness Meditation at
CBS

Sat 8/25

Board retreat

Wed 8/27, 7-8.30pm

Mindfulness Meditation at
CBS

8/5

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE . . .
HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG? . . .
LET'S CELEBRATE!
JUDY AND WAYNE KLING

UUCD will be marking 10 years of chartered existence in March 2019. Wayne and Judy Kling want to share a little history of how we got to this point and wish to discuss how you would like to celebrate this special anniversary with them. Join us for reminiscing and party planning!

8/12

TBA

8/19

WALKING WITH GOD
REV GREG CHUTE

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
OFFERING GOES TO FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE

8/26

LOOKING FOR LIONS
REV GREG CHUTE

Spetember 16th is
Ingathering and
Water Communion!
Remember to mark
your calendars now!

when we hear
Our VOICES
in eaCH oTher'S words
then our
HEART
is in a HOLY PLACE.

—Joyce Poley
UUA.ORG/WORSHIP

a note from our president

Thank you to everyone who has made the July gatherings a success. The dog bed work was wonderful, we completed 18 beds to be donated to a shelter or foster group for pets. The vision boards set for this week should be interesting. I heard the movies were well attended and hope the discussions were enjoyable.

In the next few weeks we will be working with UUFN to explore the search committees working together for our next minister. Updates will be made available in each newsletter as work is completed. I plan to start offering at least one full meal at our coffee hour per quarter. Look for the date to be published in our September newsletter. If you want to help prepare a bigger meal, I would welcome any help in planning the menu and preparing the food. Hope this meal offering will give folks a time to get to know each other and strengthen our community.

Peace-
Kerry

The Social Justice Committee is still looking for someone else to help out with the monthly dinners they cook and serve at the men's shelter. Please contact Mark, Julie, or Leigh if you're interested in helping out.

The Delaware Pride Festival is on Saturday, August 11, 2018. It is held on Legislative Mall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We are collecting items for our local Code Purple effort, which shelters homeless people in times of severe winter weather. Please donate blankets, coats, gloves, etc. There is a box for donations at CBS.



Amy Dill (2), Gail Stevens (10), John Ellingsworth (17), Judy Kling (22), Ashley Hamilton (23), Kellie Newman (27), Seraphine Smith (28), Josiah Rich (29)

coastal clean-up

Trash on our beaches and in our waterways isn't just unsightly – it's also potentially dangerous to marine life and in some cases harmful to water quality. The annual Delaware Coastal Cleanup offers volunteers an opportunity to help make a difference for Delaware's shoreline and waterways while joining an international effort to clean up the world's waters. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help make a difference by participating in the 31st annual Delaware Coastal Cleanup, to be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 15. In case of severe weather, the rain date will be Saturday, September 22.

register here!

mindfulness

The UUCD Mindfulness practice group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at CBS from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Ancient Buddhist philosophy and practice have been made accessible to us through the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk. This small group of practitioners uses silent and guided meditation as well as walking meditation to bring us to the present moment to experience relaxation of body and peace of mind.

In August we will meet on August 8th and 22nd. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Please join us.

Working Groups/Contacts

Social Justice Committee: Mark Jarrell
 Worship Committee: Laura Parks
 Leadership Development: Erv Schleifer
 Stewardship Committee: Sandy Nelson
 Caring Team: Gloria Gross
 Religious Education Team:
 Susan Guiteras
 Fund Raising: could be you!
 Web Site: Tom Gower
 Newsletter: Laura Parks
 Social Media: Sheryl Winsby,
 Susan Guiteras

Hospitality: Cindy Hesseltine
 Greeters: Could be you!
 Email Updates: Greg Chute

Hospitality Schedule

8/5: Contact Cindy if interested!
 8/12: Sheryl Winsby
 8/19: Rose Ackerman
 8/26: Cindy and Leigh Hesseltine



Passegiata: Buona Serra

Food for Thought

Rev Greg Chute

We were walking across the Piazza della Signoria when suddenly who do I see? Nelson Mandela. Not really him of course, his picture. The piazza is historically the central gathering place for the citizens of Florence. In the days of the city-state they would gather there in front of the Palazzo Vecchio (Town Hall) when faced with a civic crisis, or to debate, or to hear proclamations, or to make significant decisions about the policies for the Republic. Today it is, of course, crammed with tourists. But the history is still there.

Donatello's bronze statue (a replica for security reasons, the original is in the Accademia) of Judith slaying Holofernes still stands in front of the Palazzo. It was placed there in 1457 as a symbol of the might and determination of the republic to resist tyranny and the dominion of other city states. Nearby is Michelangelo's David (ditto). Set there in 1504, it also is a symbol of the strength and resolve of the city to stand up to oppression. Times have changed, of course, but these two mighty statues still stand as reminders of the omni-present threats to life and liberty, and the necessity for courage and commitment in the face of such threats.

So it seemed just and fitting to see the face of Madiba flickering on the temporary screen set up on the wall of the Palazzo between these two great icons. My Italian isn't that good, but it was clearly coverage of the celebration in South Africa on the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth: July 18, 1918. His life and accomplishments also stand as significant reminders of the constant threats to the ideas of

democracy, to the values of worth and dignity, to tolerance and respect, and to compassion and reconciliation. His strength of character also reassures us that each individual has the capacity to change the world, even in the most dire circumstances. Like Judith and David, he refused to be beaten down, to be intimidated, to be coerced. Unlike them, his weapon was non-violence; perhaps more important and necessary in this day and age.

And it struck me how significant it is that Italy has embraced this notion of an International Nelson Mandela Day. Madiba is truly a Man for All Seasons and for all countries, a Citizen of the World, an inspiration to all of us. He stands as a model for us to also stand up, to be courageous and committed, to defy oppression in all its forms, and to fight for our values. It was a nice juxtaposition of images and ideas.

Then a new face came on the screen. I found it extremely ironic that in a week that saw 250,000 Brits in the streets chanting "Dump Trump," the honored guest speaker in South Africa was former president Obama. I immediately had to google his speech (over an hour) and was relieved to see that at a time when in many ways these United States are the laughing stock of the world, there still remains an honorable voice of reason. There still remains some respect for the values we espouse as a nation. There still remains some sense of propriety, decency and respectability. It was a pleasure to see the soul and spirit of this great nation articulated so well by our former president; and to see a foreign country turning to him as a truer representative of this great nation.

I truly hope we join with other countries around the world in choosing to celebrate Nelson Mandela Day and to set aside July 18 each year as a day to reflect on who we are, what we stand for, where we want to go, and how we want to get there. We all need to stand up for what we stand for.

*Buono giornatta
- Greg*

Read the full text of
Obama's speech:

