



**FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY
OF PLAINFIELD**

“My husband and I were raised in different religious traditions. We wanted to raise our young children in a spiritual community, but neither of us could identify with or embrace the religion of our youth.

“With First Unitarian, we found a local community where our kids could learn about social justice issues, develop spiritual rituals that complement our family traditions, and become a part of a multi-generational community.”

-Sarah

Stewardship Campaign 2020



A Message From the President:

Dear Friends,

What does a strong, confident, and faithful Unitarian Universalist congregation look like?

It is a covenanted community, where we make promises to each other about how we treat each other, and have a clear path to communicate our pain, when someone hurts us, and to forgive and be forgiven.

It is a safe community, with explicit Safe Congregations policies and procedures. All of the members of our community have the right to worship free of physical or emotional harm.

It is a mission-driven community, where we use our time, talent and treasure to live our mission.

This is what we look like.

Here are our basic plans for the 2020-2021 church

year:

Staffing Plan:

- **Consulting minister.** Our minister will be stepping away from the stage, but still support us in the wings. She will continue to lead worship once a quarter and advise the worship team, including any guest speakers and/or UU ministers-in-formation. She will support us with our governance, finances,

“Developing your own faith is the opportunity that is given here, not just taking what someone is telling you.”
-Alice

and communications management. She will continue to provide pastoral care and be our public face provide a UU ministerial presence at the Fanwood Ministerium and at local events.

- **Minsters-in-formation.** We will be a lab for ministers-in-formation to hone their skills and bring us their vibrant energy and new ideas into our worship. Each week we will have a worship leader ready to open our eyes to new ideas and perspectives, to fill our cups with hope for the coming week.
- **Music director,** to bring a diverse array of UU music into our worship.

Worship Plan:

- **Dynamic services** that will strive to meet the

needs of all ages and inspire compassionate action

- Increased budget for **music and worship**,
- **Best practices in all-ages worship**,
- **Support for small group development** do deepen our connections within our community.

Denominational Support:

- We commit to being a **full fair share denomi-**

“I met some of my best friends at cons and I learned how to treat others better through a community of love and acceptance. I wasn’t able to find my people at my own school, but I was able to find people that I really connected with at the youth cons.”

-Arthur, 17

nation, in our economic support for the UUA.

- Support for **NJ Faith Action**.
- **Nurturing student ministers** to be the next generation of UU leaders.
- **Becoming leaders** in great, all ages worship.

Putting our Money Where our Mission Is:

We are committed to giving outside of ourselves of our

time, our talent, and our treasure. **100% of our plate offerings will be donated to organizations of the congregation's choosing.**

Reaching Out:

Fully-funded **marketing plan**, developed with our Launchpad consultant team.

Living our Best Lives:

We are putting programming into place for spiritual growth, social action, and just for fun!

All of the work we are doing depends on your generous financial support. Please join us as we bring cutting-edge UU programming to central New Jersey, and continue to give generously of your time, talent, and treasure to keep us a strong, confident, and faithful Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Join us on Sunday, March 1st, our Stewardship Sunday, for a special service. We will have a dinner provided by the Stewardship Committee following the service.

As always, you can contact me with any questions and concerns by emailing president@fusp.org, calling (908) 432-4134 and I'm around most Sundays.



-Melissa



A Message From the Minister:

We had a dream.

We had a dream that giving away our beloved historic building to the people of Plainfield for an Arts and Cultural Center would help us feel good, like we had done a good thing with our greatest asset.

We had a dream that putting resources in place that would mean we had an every-Sunday musician/song leader would make a difference in how we felt about worship.

**“First Unitarian has importance in two distinct areas: its consistent active involvement in civil rights and all humanitarian activities and, more personally, the members have been a wonderful and constant support for me. The members of First Unitarian are my family.” -Sylvia
-Sylvia**

We had a dream that bringing in a young, enthusiastic, new-UU minister-in-formation, would breathe new life into the newly planted First Unitarian experiment.

We had a dream that if we showed up at Fanwood community activities, and if we had big, prominent signs pointing to our new location we could attract those who also wanted to feel what we were and are feeling.

This fall several of us joined our beloved former Administrator, Sharon McGuire, who now works for the City of Plainfield, at an event to celebrate the opening of the Plainfield Performing Arts Center. It was amazing, and we were honored guests. But the highlight was not us, it was us seeing the people of Plainfield make 724 Park Avenue their own place.



Markus Grae-Hauck has rounded out our worship with so much music. He joined us late last spring and has brought us a new sound, full congregational singing, many guest musicians, and the addition of his music and personality that has now become integral to our way of doing Sunday afternoons.

Earlier last year, when we were considering all the implications of re-planting, I had a dream that if we could somehow find a young, enthusiastic, affordable UU minister, we would also attract new people. I reached out to a recent UU graduate of Union Theological in NYC. She is the one who had me reach out to Ali.

After a very short interview where I didn't learn much more except that her parents lived in Plainfield and how well it would work out for her to take the train to

their house for the weekends, I asked if we could be her Field Ed. Placement. She has been a dream come true. Enthusiastic, innovative, sensitive to all our needs. Luckily, she is graduating and highly likely to stay in New Jersey, so she will continue to be with us!

We have new life! New members, new families, new activities, new programming. We have wave of love going out to the many organizations we have Shared the ENTIRE plate offerings with every month.

If you haven't been able to come on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm, I hope you will rearrange your schedule so you too can experience the New Life. I hope you will choose to gift First Unitarian with a generous pledge of support.

-Rev. Ann Marie



“First Unitarian has been a place where I can make a tangible difference in this world– not by writing a check, but with my own hard work. I have gained great spiritual satisfaction with the work– and working alongside others. Our shared experiences have created deep friendships.”
-Melissa







**Bring this card to Stewardship Sunday on
March 1st or...**

Put in offering plate

Email to info@firstunj.org

Give to any board member

Mail to 2560 Highway 22 # 324,
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

**Or go to firstunj.org to pledge
online.**

I hereby pledge to pay \$ _____
to FUSP for the year 2020-2021

Name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

- I will pay my pledge in:
- lump sum payment
 - equal monthly amounts
 - other

I cannot make a pledge, but I would like to support First Unitarian with a financial contribution of _____.