

## PRINCIPLES & SOURCES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equality and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life:

- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As a free congregation, we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visitors can speak to any member during Fellowship Hour for answers to any questions. Friends can also sign up to receive *The Communitarian*, our monthly newsletter, and for our weekly *Sunday Digest*. To learn more about UUOCC, go to <http://www.uuocc.org>, or call (732) 244-3455. To learn more about our parent Unitarian Universalism Association, go to <http://www.uua.org>.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS



**From NORTH & SOUTH** Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 82/82A8, and exit onto Route 37 West. Take Route 37 West 1.7 miles to Holiday Mall/Aldi shopping center. Right turn into the shopping center.

**From WEST (e.g., Lakehurst)** East on Route 70 to Route 37 East. Then 5 miles to U-turn at Oak Ridge Parkway (Rt. 527). 1/10th mile to Holiday Mall/Aldi shopping center. Right turn into the shopping center.

**From EAST (e.g., Brick)** Hooper Ave. to Route 37 West, then 1.7 miles from the Garden State Parkway interchange to the Holiday Mall/Aldi shopping center. Right turn into the shopping center.

## Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation

~ In the Holiday Mall/Aldi Shopping Center ~

734 Route 37 West | PO Box 5184

Toms River, NJ 08754

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# UUOCC

Unitarian  
Universalist  
Ocean County  
Congregation

Rev. Betsy Scheurman, Minister

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

# GUEST GUIDE

~~~~~ WEEKLY SERVICES ~~~~~

**Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**

Please enjoy hospitality hour following services.

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## WELCOME TO UUOCC

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation. We come together to dwell together in peace, to seek spiritual and religious truth in love, and to help one another. UUOCC joins with more than 1,000 free and independent UUA congregations in a responsible search for truth and meaning. People of all religious, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, all colors, all sexual orientations, and of all ages are welcome to become part of our congregation.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday services begin at 10:30 AM; doors open at 10:00 AM. Services may be led by our minister, other ministers, or lay people. Our services express the diversity of our faith: they challenge, comfort, and inspire.

Seekers and searchers, questioners and doubters, skeptics and heretics, the hurting and the healing, the yearners and learners, — all are invited and welcome. Come. You may find your home, at last.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Following services each Sunday, we enjoy each other's company around coffee and light refreshments during Fellowship Hour. In this time, we and our friends socialize, and enjoy and get to know one another better. When you come to church, please plan to stay for this informal part of our Sunday mornings.

## OUR MINISTER

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman is highly educated, with a B.A., J.D., and M.Div. (Grinnell College, University of Chicago Law School, and Drew Theological School). Still, what she values most is the wisdom of the heart. She says, "the essence of ministry is relational: connection to self, calling, congregation, community, planet, Wisdom,



and Love. And at the heart of all relationship is Mystery."

Married for 35 years to a Roman Catholic, and granddaughter of a Methodist minister, Betsy is passionate about developing interfaith respect and understanding. Her own family includes not only Roman Catholics, Methodists, and Unitarian Universalists, but also a Jewish sister-in-law and a Muslim son-in-law.

Rev. Betsy is with us after eight years serving congregations in Morristown, NJ, East Brunswick, NJ, Louisville, KY, and Meadville, PA.

## 10 GOOD REASONS TO JOIN A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

- *Because here ... We join with open hearts and minds to worship together, seeking what is sacred among us.*
- *Because here ... We are part of a long, liberal tradition of reason and tolerance, of hope and liberation.*
- *Because here ... We honor our Jewish and Christian roots, and also reach out to know the great truths found in other religious traditions.*
- *Because here ... We acknowledge that revelation is never sealed, and we empower ourselves to search for new truths.*
- *Because here ... We nurture our children's enthusiasms, and we encourage their questions.*
- *Because here ... We welcome diverse people and views.*
- *Because here ... We join our strength with others to create a more just society.*
- *Because here ... We respect the whole self: mind, body and spirit working together.*
- *Because here ... We encourage each other to be true to ourselves.*
- *Because here ... We build a supportive community that eases our loneliness and opens our hearts.*

## A FAITH THAT MATTERS

## A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

UUOCC has gone through a rigorous UUA program to gain the distinction of being a **Welcoming Congregation**, one which is committed to unqualified acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and intersexed members of the community. All are welcome here as equals.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The **Social Action Committee** educates about social concerns, seeks solutions to injustices, partners with like-minded organizations, and develops informed leaders. All are welcome to the monthly meetings.

**Lakewood Outreach** —We gather and distribute clothing, food, and household items to low-income families in the Lakewood area.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network**— We partner with other faith-based groups to feed and shelter homeless Ocean County families temporarily helping them regain their footholds.

## LIFESPAN COMMITTEE

Our **Lifespan Committee** develops, plans and coordinates events of intellectual, spiritual and social interest to our congregation and to the community. Some of these are listed next, more are planned.

**The Searchers** — This monthly discussion group, with meetings usually lasting two hours, discusses in depth social and spiritual topics of interest.

**Book Club & Potluck Lunch** — Each month a book of notable fiction or social issue is read and discussed.

**Dream Group** —We meet monthly to discuss dream theory and share our dreams. Facilitated.

**Spirit of the Earth** - Monthly meetings discuss Pagan and Wiccan theology, and related matters and practices. Facilitated.

**Meditation/Buddhist/Study Group** — After a period of meditation and light refreshments, selections from a book on Buddhist practice is read and discussed. Meets twice monthly.