

CENTRAL UNITARIAN NEWS



Welcome to our March bulletin for CUC!

Central Unitarian Church welcomes all into a home of spiritual diversity that challenges us to become our best selves, to minister to one another in love, and to serve the greater community.

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Our CUC Covenant

As a congregation, we honor our mission and promise to act with grace as we celebrate our shared humanity. We view our differences as strengths and work to meld them into harmony by listening with open minds. We agree to act with honesty, compassion, love, and respect. With this covenant, we will deepen our connections and add joy to our collective lives.

Shared Ministry, Shared Community, Shared Wisdom

Rev. Andrée Mol

Minister



Our mission statement, which we recite each Sunday in service as we dedicate our offering, explains why our congregation exists. Everything we do to fulfill that mission statement comprises our ministry at Central Unitarian Church.

Often, when congregations use the word “ministry,” they are referring to their professional ordained ministers serving on their staff. It is true that ministers are called and hired to play a specific and vital role in fulfilling a congregation’s mission. We ministers bring with us extensive education and experience as spiritual and organizational leaders. Typically our salary and benefits packages are a significant part of a congregation’s operational budget. Yet, it would be a mistake to believe that ministers alone can fulfill the mission of the congregation. Other staff members and many more lay leaders and volunteers contribute to a congregation’s ministry each day.

During the Ministerial Start-Up weekend we hosted back in November, our gathered leaders and staff explored the differing expectations we held for ministers at CUC. The ministerial search team shared the expectations they used in looking for a new minister. I shared the expectations I held for the congregations I considered. The gathered lay leaders shared the expectations they held for ministers, especially those expectations which often are not explicitly stated.

One of the reasons the search team and I strongly connected so early in our interview process related to our mutual focus on collaboration. They expressed a desire to find a collaborative minister. I expressed the importance of “shared ministry,” where my gifts, talents and contributions were combined with those of the staff and congregants to fulfill the congregation’s mission. Yet, during the Ministerial Start-Up weekend, many lay leaders admitted that they held implicit expectations that the minister at CUC will “solve all problems.”

This expectation for a leader is not uncommon or surprising. After all, one only needs to look at our presidential elections every four years to see the hopes and dreams of American’s tied to the belief that if we just elect the right person with the right ideas we can solve all our problems. This remains just one example of how we are taught to value wisdom held by a single individual rather than the wisdom harnessed through collaboration.

Activist and community organizer Grace Lee Boggs reportedly hung a sign in her home which stated: “Building community is to the collective as spiritual practice is to the individual.” I love the simplicity of this statement and how it reminds us that building community is both sacred and takes practice. Shared ministry is one way we practice building community.

Throughout my first months here I've been contemplating the phrase "We are CUC." This has even become one of the tag lines for our Stewardship Campaign. I've lead and participated in multiple activities and programs including worship services, pastoral care, social action events, workshops, committee meetings, social gatherings, and discussions about the future of CUC. Throughout all these experiences I never once felt like the only person in the room practicing ministry. Always, alongside me were others, caring deeply for this congregation, and practicing shared ministry.

Let us all build a deeper awareness and appreciation of this important practice of shared ministry. Together, may we continue to tap into our shared wisdom, build community, and offer CUC's mission as a gift to each other and our community.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrée

Religious Education News

Lynn Sodora

Director of Religious Education



Dear Teachers, Parents, and Friends ~

Spring officially arrives this month on March 19 (at 11:50 p.m. to be exact), the Spring Equinox, which we will celebrate with an All-Ages Service on Sunday, March 15. Another highlight this month will be the Bake Sale hosted by our “Sing to the Power” class (grades 3-6) to raise funds for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Please support this event by either donating baked goods for the sale or buying some goodies to enjoy (or both!) As the weather keeps getting nicer, we hope to schedule a few

lessons and activities outside exploring our beautiful grounds, including our labyrinth and garden. For more details of this month’s RE program, please see the calendar below:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 1: Regular Sunday School classes held. Children in PreK through Grade 6 join us for the beginning of worship service at 10:30 then depart for class after the Time for All Ages. **OWL** classes (Grades 7-9) begin at 10:15 a.m. in Room 10/11. **“Sing to the Power” class Bake Sale to benefit St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital today during coffee hour.**

Sunday, March 8: Regular Sunday School classes held. Children in PreK through Grade 6 join us for the beginning of worship service at 10:30 then depart for class after the Time for All Ages. **OWL** classes (Grades 7-9) begin at 10:15 a.m. in Room 10/11. **Youth Group meeting in the Lounge during worship service today.** (*Supervision for young children during today’s Congregational Conversation will be provided in the Assembly Room from noon to 1:30 p.m.*)

Sunday, March 15: All-Ages “Spring Equinox” worship service; There are **NO** Sunday School classes today as we all meet together for our worship service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 22: Regular Sunday School classes held. PreK-Grade 6 leave for RE classes after Time for All Ages. **OWL** classes (Grades 7-9) begin at 10:15 a.m. in Room 10/11.

Saturday, March 27 - Sunday, March 29: Students in Grades 6-8 attend Metro NY Junior Youth Conference hosted by the UU Congregation at Montclair

Sunday, March 29: Regular Sunday School classes held. PreK-Grade 6 leave for RE classes after Time for All Ages. **OWL** classes (Grades 7-9) begin at 10:15 a.m. in Room 10/11.

In faith and service,

Lynn

What's Going On?

Rab Bell

President, Board of Trustees



In this edition of “What’s Going On,” I ask and answer a question that has been on my mind since our congregation called Rev. Andree Mol as its settled minister. On April 18, we will hold an installation ceremony for Rev. Mol. My question is:

What is the difference between the installation of a minister and the installation of kitchen cabinets?

“Installation” is a word that has always tickled my funny bone when applied to a human being. According to my online dictionary, the primary meaning is “the action or process of installing someone or something, or of being installed.” But the example they give is “the installation of a central air-conditioning system.” Which is how most of use the word in daily life.

No carpentry will be involved in Rev. Andrée’s installation. If you have participated in such a ceremony in the past, you know that it brings together ministers from other congregations who have a personal connection with Andrée. There are speeches of appreciation, a sermon, a charge to the minister and the congregation, and a ceremony that marks in a formal and joyous way the entry of our minister into service to our congregation. Ceremony is not as big a part of Unitarian Universalist worship as it is in most faiths, but on this Saturday, we will get a chance to feel its power.

I invite you to this service not because it is important to Andrée – which it is – but because it is important to us all. I asked my tongue-in-cheek question at the beginning for a serious reason.

If you have ever decided that it was time for new cabinets in the kitchen, what did you do? For us, it started with a trip to Home Depot. There we selected a model of cabinet and cabinet hardware we liked. We shared our measurements with them – but were told they were going to send somebody to measure anyway, which makes obvious sense. From that point onward, the whole thing was taken out of our hands. Somebody came to measure. An estimate was provided. Boxes of cabinetry arrived. People we hoped knew what they were doing entered our home. They tore out the old cabinets, then mounted the new ones. There were a few problems where we were consulted, but otherwise our major role was to write the check.



That's how installations usually go. But not this one.

This installation will enshrine a partnership between one very talented and dedicated individual and our congregation, with all its diversity of backgrounds, its habits of mind and spirit, its fears and its hopes for the future. This will be an installation of the spirit, a ceremony both solemn and joyous, to mark a major passage. It is we of CUC who called Andrée to the ministry of our congregation. It is Andrée who insists that this ministry be not theirs alone but shared with us in profound ways. As they solemnly and joyously take on the mantle of ministry to us, so will we shoulder our own responsibility for the success of that ministry, and do so in both solemnity and joy.

You won't want to miss it.

We Care for One Another

Caring is part of our community at Central Unitarian Church. As part of our prayers on Sunday morning, we share the joys and sorrows of members and friends within our Central Unitarian community. The Pastoral Care Team regularly uses this space in our monthly bulletin and our weekly eNewsletter to share some of the recent joys and sorrows here. We encourage you to reach out to those who would appreciate your support. We also encourage you to stop by the Pastoral Care table at the rear of the Sanctuary each Sunday to sign sympathy, get-well, and "thinking of you" cards to our members and friends.



You may wonder, what is pastoral care? We all have moments in our lives that touch a tender part of our spirit. That may be an illness, accident or death. That may include a joy like a new birth or the celebration of a major milestone. Those moments may also be less tangible -- perhaps an unrest with the state of the world or a situation in your life that you can't quite yet put into words. During these moments, our minister and our Pastoral Care team are available to offer support.

If you or someone you know connected to the congregation are in possible need of pastoral support, we encourage you to reach out to Rev. Andrée Mol at 201-262-6300x2 or at revandree@cucparamus.org.

March Worship Services

Sunday, March 1

A New Hour: The Legacy of Unitarian Universalist Women

Women actively shaped Unitarian Universalism throughout its history, even though it took many generations before women were formally allowed to assume leadership roles, including serving as ordained ministers. We'll explore the contributions of leading women within UUism including women within our own Central Unitarian Church, and consider how their legacy has shaped the way we experience our living tradition today.

Sunday, March 8

On Civil Disobedience

In July 1846, Henry David Thoreau wrote *Civil Disobedience*, explaining the reasoning behind his refusal to pay taxes as a protest against slavery and the US war with Mexico. His writing, which would go on to influence many others, including Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. declared that "it is the citizen's duty to heed the voice of conscience rather than collude in oppression." We'll examine the power of these words and their relevance 174 years later.

Sunday, March 15

Return of the Sun - An All-Ages Spring Equinox Service

Our bodies yearn to celebrate the return of the sun -- from the promise of daylight that carries us through a long winter, to the hope we find to carry us through our struggles. Join Rev. Andrée Mol and Lynn Sodora (Director of Religious Education) for an all-ages Spring Equinox service. Through song, stories, and ritual, we'll celebrate the arrival of Spring.

Sunday, March 22

Clean Water Action

March 22 is World Water Day. Join us for our regular Sunday service including a presentation by Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director of Clean Water Action whose mission is to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems.

Sunday, March 29

The Space Between

Names and categories create distinctions which we use to navigate our world. But what happens when society's standard labels don't fit our identity - black, white, gay, straight, male, female? We are more than just a label. Yet, it takes courage to live outside categorical norms. This Sunday before the Trans Day of Visibility (March 31), Rev. Andrée explores stories of trans, non-binary and gender non-confirming individuals who risk living into their full humanity, and ways we can collectively affirm those lives with our love.

News from Our Partner Church in Prague

The CUC Partner Church committee exchanges regular communication with our partner church in Prague. Updates from each congregation are regularly shared with our respective members. Below is recent news from Prague.

Outstanding Events at the Prague Unitarian Congregation in February 2020



The past two months was a time in our congregation to focus on our grants received from our national organization, the National Association of Czech Unitarians, which we have had the opportunity to draw upon. On the one hand, we evaluated the implementation of grants received last year and, on the other hand, we submitted applications for renewed grants for 2020.

In 2019 we received grants for the promotion and development of Unitarian music (we obtained recording equipment and started to produce recordings of Unitarian songs performed at our events and we are establishing an archive of these recordings, which will be available to all Unitarian congregations), preparations for the operation of the planned new community center (we used funds mainly on the design of the furniture which we will have in our newly reconstructed space), support for pastoral work (especially travel expenses for our student ministers for their visits to the various Czech Unitarian congregations) and Unitarian mini-festivals (organizing expanded assemblies, where the standard speech / presentation is followed by an additional cultural and/or educational program, targeted for our members and the general public, which also includes a charitable collection for some socially beneficial organization).

In 2020, we want to continue these projects because of their demonstrated value and importance. In particular, we are looking forward to the initiation of operation of our new Community Center that is expected to be very demanding, but certainly a very beneficial task. We are also looking forward to facing new challenges that will move us forward.

Submitted with greetings By Eva Lazoková; translated by Josef Machac

CUC Social Action Winter/Spring Offerings

The Social Action Team invites you to attend their monthly 3rd Sunday programming events. All programs begin at 12:15 p.m. after Sunday service. Additional information will be provided for individual programs each month.

March 15 - Judy Manton presents Emigrants, Immigrants & Refugees

April 19 - Rev Andrée continues their Conversation on Liberation series

May 17 - Black Maria Film Festival returns with an LGBTQ program

June 21 - Center For Food Action (CFA) presents. Join us to find out more about this longtime partner of CUC



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

General Assembly is just a few hours drive away in 2020. We are hoping a large group from CUC will attend this year. Join us in gathering with thousands of UUs from across the country who share your passion and connection to Unitarian Universalism. Please see Rev. Andrée if you plan to attend or if you have questions about attending.

If you are interested in sponsoring a CUC member to attend GA in 2020, please contact Rev. Andrée!

Register Now and Save! Registration is now open at uua.org/ga/registration. Full-time registration is \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, \$150 for off-site registrants. Early bird registration is now through March 15, 2020. Rates increase on March 16th. [Register Now!](#)

Fundraising Ideas for GA. Crowdfunding is a popular option for some GA attendees. Consider FAITHIFY, a UU-operated crowdfunding site that charges no listing fees and now allows recipients to claim all monies donated for GA travel and registration campaigns as opposed its former meet-your-goal or lose-your-funding approach. [Fundraising Ideas](#)

Housing Opens March 2 at 9:00 a.m. The UUA room blocks consists of major hotel chains, boutique and historical properties as well as multi-bedroom dorm suites and single dorm rooms. Additionally, UUs from local congregations will offer Home Hospitality (B&B style accommodations). [Housing Options](#)

March Activities at CUC

Sunday, March 1 & 29, 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Ministers Office

Coffee with the Minister

Join our membership team for extended coffee hour and conversation. This is a great opportunity for newcomers and visitors to meet with our minister!

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Lounge

Book Club

Wednesday, March 4, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Assembly Room

Lunch with the Minister

Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Annex and Kitchen

New Member Breakfast

Sunday, March 8, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Congregational Conversation

Wednesday, March 11, All Day, Off-Site Location

Teens Talk About Racism

Saturday, March 14, 4:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Assembly Room

Spring Fling- Storytelling Event

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Social Action Third Sunday Programming

Thursday, March 19, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Lounge

Monthly Meditation Group

Find a still point in a busy world. Our group practices many forms of mindfulness meditation, such as guided, silent, walking and others. Time is provided for personal sharing on a voluntary basis. Each session ends with Metta - the traditional loving-kindness meditation. No prior experience is necessary to participate. We meet the third Thursday of each month, except for July and August, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. in the Lounge. For more information contact Susan Bruce susanmarie51@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Lounge

Soul Matters Circle Gatherings



Monthly Soulful Circles returns every third Thursday of the month in a new format led by Rev. Andrée. Gather for music, reading, meditation and group reflection on the monthly topic of "Wisdom". RSVP to Rev. Andrée at revandree@cucparamus.org.

Saturday, March 21, 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Outreach Auction

Sunday, March 22, 2:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
An Evening with Bill Ervolino

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Lounge
Bergen Brady

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Marsha P. Johnson Social

Friday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Documentary: True Justice

Saturday, March 28, 3:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Assembly Room, Kitchen, and Annex
Board Dinner

Sunday, March 29, 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Adult Education presentation on religious diversity led by Jane DeVries

Story Night @ CUC Paramus

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 7-9:30pm

Come to Story Night @ CUC - An evening featuring 8 curated, true personal stories as remembered by the storytellers and told live (a la 'The Moth').

The following storytellers (in alpha order) are honing their tales during workshops to deliver optimal impact within the allotted 5 minutes:

- Zoe Fechner
- Patricia Joseph
- Annette Machac
- Rev. Andrée Mol
- Maria Nieves
- Heather Troyer
- Lloyd Sleeper
- Pam Zeldin

The event is hosted by Dina Cutrone & Carina Kuhl.

Come support the storytellers and enjoy the show!

- Pre-sale tickets at \$15 now available (back of sanctuary leading up to event or \$20 at the door).
- Adults Only
- Includes coffee, tea, dessert
- Open to 'the public' so do invite your friends & family!

Adult Religious Education

presentation on religious diversity led by Jane DeVries

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 12:15 pm, Assembly Room

"We all have our own spiritual Journeys. Can we find new meaning in old teachings?"

With the culture becoming so diverse, how do we establish religious boundaries and definitions? Can two faith traditions thrive in the same household? Must one renounce the background of their youth in order to accommodate the reality of the modern world?

Join Jane de Vries of our adult education committee as she explores these issues.

Join us for an afternoon with



Bill Ervolino

For more than 25 years, Bill Ervolino was humor columnist and features writer for The Bergen Record. He is the author of "Some Kind of Wiseguy." He has performed locally at Bananas, Gotham Comedy Club, Gilda's Club and Bergen PAC.

Special musical guests - The Caelan Cardello Jazz Trio

Sunday, March 22, 2020

2:30 - 4:30 PM

Reception and Light Refreshments to follow

Central Unitarian Church • 156 Forest Avenue • Paramus, NJ

Tickets: \$25/ \$30 at the door

Purchase tickets online at <https://bpt.me/4488949>

Tickets also available through Louise Lessersohn at louiselessersohn@gmail.com.
Cash or checks (payable Central Unitarian Church).

March Committee Meetings

Sunday, March 1, 12:15 p.m. ., Women's Alliance Foyer
Building and Grounds Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 8, 12:00 p.m. , Lounge
Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Lounge
Pastoral Care Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 9:00 a.m., Lounge
Endowment Trust Fund Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 p.m. , Lounge
Leadership Development Meeting

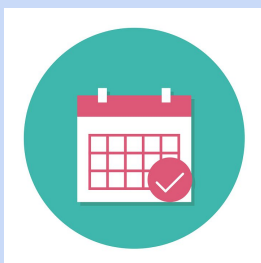
Wednesday, March 18, 2:00 p.m., Lounge
Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m., Annex
Social Action Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 22, 12:15 p.m. ., Lounge
Building and Grounds Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Board of Trustees Meeting

Check Out Our New Online Calendar!



Trying to keep track of all that's going on at CUC? Looking to book an event or meeting and don't know what else might be happening that day? Take a look at our new [online public calendar](#). All CUC activities are listed as well as any times booked by renters in our building.

Note: To book space and/or add an activity to our calendar, please reach out to our Office Administrator, Leann Maldonado at leannmaldonado@cucparamus.org.

Congregational Conversations at CUC

In January, the Board of Trustees began hosting a series of congregational conversations focused on the future of Central Unitarian Church. These conversations will continue throughout the year on the following dates.

- **March 8** - Topic: Shared Ministry
- **April 5** - Topic: Financial Sustainability
- **May 3** - Annual Congregational Meeting
- **June 7** - Topic: Preparing for Our Congregation-Wide Retreat
- **October 2 and 3** - Congregation-Wide Retreat

All meetings will begin at 12:15 in the sanctuary after service with the exception of the congregational retreat in October.

Additional Upcoming Activities at CUC

Saturday, April 11, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m, Sanctuary

Passover Seder

Save a place at the Passover table! Central Unitarian Church will host its annual Passover Seder on April 11. Come enjoy this participatory Seder as we retell the story of the Israelites journey from slavery to freedom! Children and extended family members of CUC members are welcome. There is no charge for this event. CUC provides the main course and beverages, and each family is asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share with 10-12 people. Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the Sanctuary following services. Please see Pam Zeldin or email pkzeldin@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m, Sanctuary

Installation Service

Come join in the joyous celebration as we officially install our newly settled minister, Rev. Andrée Mol!

Saturday, April 25, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m, Sanctuary

Spring Fling

Fun and fellowship is Spring Fling. Please consider donating items for this year's auction. Could you host a dinner, game night, or party? Could you share your expertise or lead a local excursion? Gift certificates to restaurants, bottles of wine, gently used fine jewelry are all welcome too. Complete the [donation form](#) and return to Stu at skautsch@mindspring.com. Thank you. Spring fling committee members will be at the back of the sanctuary after service to help you if needed.

You are all invited to celebrate



The Installation
of
Rev. Andrée Mol
as the minister of
Central Unitarian Church

April 18, 2020 • 2 P.M.

Join us as the Congregation and Rev. Andrée Mol
honor and celebrate the promises of our shared ministry.



Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

Member Organizations:

Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County

Temple Emeth, Teaneck

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Central Unitarian Church, Paramus

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation
of the Palisades, Englewood

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Teaneck

Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell

Islamic Community Services
Group, Boonton

First Friends of NJ and NY, Kearny

St. Peter the Apostle Parish
Church, River Edge

Darul Islah Mosque, Teaneck

**The NNJSC, Inc., a 501(c)(3)
organization, provides
humanitarian support and
advocacy for asylum seekers
and asylees.**

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Benefit Dinner

for the Northern New Jersey
Sanctuary Coalition

Keynote Speaker:

Stephanie Carnes

Bilingual trauma social worker

“Adversity and Resilience in the Central
American Immigrant Community”

Entertainment:

Caelan Cardello, jazz pianist

Sunday April 19th, 2020 6:00 pm

Central Unitarian Church
156 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Tickets \$25. Sponsorships \$100. Donations welcome.
Sign up to attend online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-nj-sanctuary-coalition-annual-benefit-dinner-tickets-92280837469>

Or send check with “Benefit Dinner” in memo line to NNJSC at
P.O. Box 5017, Caldwell, NJ 07006. Info: njjscdinner@gmail.com

How to Connect at Central Unitarian

Sunday mornings are a community effort

How can someone new help out?

Get to know us in a low-key way by signing up online or at the back after service

- to host Coffee Hour
- provide flowers
- join a Sunday morning Welcome Host Team

Enjoy learning, teaching, working with youth?

See Jacquie Flynn, Chair of the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee.

Good with music, words, or graphics?

See Matt Anderson, Director of Music, or Robert René Galván, Choir Conductor, to perform instrumental music or join the Church Choir. See Phil Sosinsky, Chair, to join the Music and Worship Team or to become a Worship Associate.

Committees make our beloved congregation possible

Church teams and committees meet regularly, and most of them are open to members and friends. Contribute your gifts and talents, and maybe you'll find you develop some leadership skills along the way that will enrich your life and help you give back to your religious community.

Program Committees: Adult Religious Education, Music and Worship, Partner Church, Pastoral Care, Religious Education, and Social Justice

Support Committees: Building and Grounds, Finance, Membership, and Stewardship

Special Fund Raisers: Outreach Auction (supports Bergen County charities), Spring Fling (all-church fundraiser)

See the list of committee meeting times. Contact a committee chair, sign up, and join in! For nominated positions, speak to our Leadership Development Team.

Other Ways to Support CUC

You can rent the church for your next party or family gathering. Central Unitarian Church Members receive discounted rates on rentals of the Assembly Room or Sanctuary. Contact Leann Leann Maldonado in the Church Office to find out more.

Join Central Unitarian's new online platform 'REALM Connect.'

More than 50 percent of the congregation has registered to use the new REALM Connect online platform on their computers

What is REALM for? *Good question!* Realm is:



- an always-up-to-date directory of members and friends, many with photos.
- the first place to go for news that is private to the congregation and for upcoming events
- the place to make a pledge, manage your pledge, and contribute to it whenever you want – including automatic payments from your bank account or credit card.
- where committees and teams are communicating, scheduling meetings, and storing documents.

If you haven't signed up yet, go to cucparamus.org and click on "Directory and Pledge" at the very top to start the process.

If you have questions or want help, see Phil Sosinsky of the Communications Team.

Submitting Items for Communication

Weekly e-Newsletter items need to be submitted by Monday evening to make the weekly publication. Late arrivals will be held for the following week.

Monthly bulletin items need to be submitted by the third Friday of each month to make the following month's bulletin.

Items received after these dates will be included in the next available publication.

Please submit news items to communications@cucparamus.org.

Be sure to list the who, what, where, and when, with a title for the news and the contact name and email.

About Central Unitarian Church (CUC)

Our History

In 1897, a small group of folks founded the Hackensack Unitarian Congregational Church. By 1956, the congregation had outgrown its walls and moved to Paramus, changing its name to Central Unitarian Church (CUC) and reaching out to the liberal religious community in Bergen County.

Our Vision Statement

We dream of a future in which

... Central Unitarian Church’s commitment to Unitarian Universalism as a union of reason and faith is a beacon to all who seek nourishment of the heart, mind and spirit in a life-changing religious home.

... Central Unitarian is a loving community built on bonds of trust that offers powerful, tangible ways for every person who walks through our doors to work for a better world.

... Central Unitarian offers multiple pathways to generous service in which all members and friends find personal meaning and share their abundant talents and ideas.

... Central Unitarian celebrates the whole human experience, gathering many cultures and voices through our richly diverse programming.

... Central Unitarian works passionately for justice and empowers each person to change lives within and beyond our walls every day.

... Our past is honored and our resources enable this vision to flourish.

Adopted by the congregation on June 10, 2012

Central Unitarian Church is...

... a member of the *Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations* (UUA.org)

... a *Welcoming Congregation*, affirming and welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their families.

... a *Stigma-Free Zone*, committed to ending the stigma associated with mental illness as part of the county-wide Stigma-Free campaign and Paramus Stigma-Free.

... a supporter of the *Black Lives Matter* movement for equality and justice.

... a *Community of Covenant*, where members promise to act with honesty, compassion, love, and respect toward one another.

... a member of the *Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County*.

... a member of the *UU FaithAction NJ*, our voice for justice, equality, and compassion in the Garden State!

... a community partner of the *Center for Food Action*, committed to preventing hunger and homelessness and improving the lives of individuals and families living in poverty.

Central Unitarian Church

156 Forest Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652

Phone: 201-262-6300

Website: cucparamus.org

Facebook: Central Unitarian Church

Office Hours

Sunday - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff

Minister:

Rev. Andrée Mol

revandree@cucparamus.org

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment.

Director of Religious Education:

Lynn Sodora

lynnsodora@cucparamus.org

Office hours: Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday afternoons by appointment.

Office Administrator:

Leann Maldonado

leannmaldonado@cucparamus.org

*Office hours: Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Director of Music:

Matt Anderson

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