

September Worship Calendar

September 9 ~ Homecoming Sunday
Rev. Carlos R. Martinez

September 23 ~ Sufi Day Service
Sheikha Fariha Fatema Jerrahi

September 16 ~ Yom Kippur Service
Rev. Carlos R. Martinez

September 30
Rev. Wendy Bartel & Rev. Lynn Gardner
Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady

Rev. Carlos R. Martinez, Interim Minister
Esther Rosado, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music
Valerie Lynch, Membership Coordinator
Jeff Loveland, Church Administrator
Rev. Bruce Southworth, Minister Emeritus

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Heidi Siegfried, Board Vice Chair
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Theresa Bowman
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The Community Church of New York

An Independent Congregation Affiliated with the
Unitarian Universalist Association
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the community
news

Minister's Corner

Homecoming, September 9 & 16, 2018 Issue



Welcome back to Community! A new church year is upon us! As a second year of transition begins the Ministerial Search Committee is undertaking the awesome task of composing all the elements it needs to put the congregation's best foot forward in its quest to find a candidate for ministry. As your interim

minister I have been witness to the congregation's growth as a caring community. I also marvel at the congregation's ability to find its voice and footing as it looks headlong into the future.

Beyond our walls the complications of our national political life is further revealing to us the nature of the challenging times we inhabit. There are resonances and dark shadows of political intrigues of the past. As Unitarian Universalists we are deeply committed to the democratic process and our commitment to our core principles to guide our engagement in facing what may prove to be a troubling fall election season.

To help sustain us all I call on our foremost Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams. JLA put forth that we are all of the Prophethood of All Believers. He said that what defines us is our commitments as a definition of our faith. What we often forget is the deep anchored beliefs which ties us to our moral compass. Life in its gyrations and perturbations often obscures the foundational beliefs of our being.

James Luther Adams tells us that the process of defining where our commitments reside is a curative to the malaise that overtakes us in the course of everyday life.

James Luther Adams while on a trip to Germany as a newly ordained Minister was challenged by the German psychiatrist and philosopher Karl Jaspers in a meeting at his home one day in Heidelberg in 1936. Adams said, "I asked him what he deemed to be the contemporary significance of liberal Christianity. He [Jaspers] replied with unwonted vehemence, 'Religious liberalism has no significance. It has Zwang—no costing commitment'.... I pressed upon myself the question, 'If fascism should arise in the States, what in your past performance would constitute a pattern or framework of resistance?' I could give only a feeble answer to the question. My principal political activities had been the reading of the newspaper and voting. I had preached sermons on the depression or in defense of strikers. Occasionally, I uttered protest against censorship in Boston, but I had no adequate conception of citizenship participation."

What defines you? I gently and firmly assert that something deeply anti-democratic is trying to assert itself in our body politic and we must be different from the way we have been. We must find the anchors and resolve in our faith to formulate a measured response to what is blatantly immoral and evil. As we move into the new church year I ask you to take stock of your commitments and invest yourselves fully into our common faith. We are better together than alone. I submit this is why we come to Community; this is why we come to Church.

Rev. Carlos

Church Events

Breathing Exercises with Nafisa
Mon., Sept. 10, 2:00 pm

Yoga with Nafisa
Tue., Sept. 11, 6:00 pm

Yoga with Nafisa
Sat., Sept. 15, 10:30 am

RE Open House
Sun., Sept. 16, 12:00 pm

Breathing Exercises with Nafisa
Mon., Sept. 17, 2:00 pm

Yoga with Nafisa
Sat., Sept. 18, 10:30 am

Gallery35 Reception
Sat., Sept. 22, 6:00 pm

Breathing Exercises with Nafisa
Mon., Sept. 24, 2:00 pm

Yoga with Nafisa
Tue., Sept. 25, 6:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



September often ushers in an excitement for new beginnings, as well as a welcome to the return to familiar schedules. Soon we will celebrate the start of a new church year.

We are looking forward to gathering children, youth, members and friends as a church family, welcoming back the numerous members and friends who travel during July and August.

It is an exciting time of year with new opportunities to be involved in at Community Church. Jil Novenski will continue as the RE Teacher for Sunday children's programming, and look forward to offerings in *Hinduism, Yoga for Children and their Caretakers, Common Read, Death Café, Social Teas*, and various celebrations during the church year. These are opportunities to grow, learn new practices and ideas.

I invite you to embrace this period of transition to engage with each other in growing and building Community. Let us reach out to one another.

Paz, Esther

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY—September 9

9:30 am Shelter Meeting
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Religious Education
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
12:45 pm Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY—September 16

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Religious Education
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
12:45 pm Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY—September 19

6:00 pm Finance Cmte Mtg.

SUNDAY—September 23

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Religious Education
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
12:45 pm Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

Sunday School ~ Our children and teachers begin in the Chapel at 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour ~ **Assembly Hall, 12:15 p.m.** Please join us after worship.

THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—SEPTEMBER 9

Pulpit Flowers—In memory of David Barus and David's godson, Leroy McNeil, by Carolyn Odell
Usher/Greeter—Elektra Birchall
Leslie McKenzie

Welcome Table—Carla Corcoran
Nifisa Degani
Hospitality—Board of Trustees
Bookstall—Ken Wachtell

THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—SEPTEMBER 16

Pulpit Flowers—In loving memory of Dr. Sidney and Mrs. Norma Wachtell, married 1940-1992. For better or for worse! Till death did them part

Usher/Greeter—Anna-Lisa Hafgren, Kevin Willis

Welcome Table—Virginia Brody
Hospitality—Leslie McKenzie
Bookstall—Closed

September Coordinator Helene & BJ's Homeless Shelter—George Garland—917-796-5388
Shelter volunteers always welcome.

SUNDAY—September 23

Sufi Day Service
Sheikha Fariha Fatema Jerrahi

SUNDAY—September 30

Rev. Wendy Bartel and
Rev. Lynn Gardner,
Unitarian Universalist Society
of Schenectady
will preach.

FROM DR. JANICE MARIE JOHNSON

Good news! With the ongoing support of Rev. Carlos Martinez, I will be a candidate for Unitarian Universalist Commissioned (CLM) Lay Ministry. During this new congregational year, I plan to:



Design and create a Compassionate Care Team as a foundational part of Community's Pastoral Care Ministry.

Inspire improvement in congregational communication and in covenantal relationships.

Offer a worship service focused on the CLM program.

Offer three adult education workshops focused on three different dimensions of care: self, others, and community.

As a long-time member of Community and as the former Director of Lifespan Religious Education, I take seriously the responsibility of serving my cherished congregation in this time of transition. I have faith that I can and will serve Community well.

Masakhane, Janice

A FAREWELL FROM JAMIE BOYCE



It has been a delightful gift to share the last eight months with you! I arrived at Community Church last January with the hope that we would celebrate joy, laughter, and kindness in the short time we had together. We discovered all that and more. We shared compassion and sadness too. Turns out a lot can happen in eight months!

I leave you better prepared for the hard work of ministry, better prepared to step into a world that dearly needs our vibrant love and persist-

ent action. Your encouragement reminds me of the potential that Unitarian Universalism has nurture broken hearts, grow the spirit, and change the world. Thank you for caring about the future of our movement as you continue to welcome Student Ministers. We need you more than you know.

My wish for you is that you remain vulnerable and open the future, even as it challenges you to your core. Rumi reminds us that "this being human is a guest house" and we are wise to welcome all that arrives with joy and optimism. A glorious future awaits.

Until we meet again,
Jamie E. Boyce



The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist

Web: Visit our website at www.ccnyc.org – Visit in person at 40 East 35th Street

Our Mission: TO GROW AS A CARING, JUSTICE-MAKING, ANTI-RACIST, DIVERSE, SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY