



# FOCUS EXPRESS

**OUR MISSION**  
IGNITE personal growth;  
ENGAGE in loving  
community; SERVE with  
integrity

## Decision-Making Skills for Inmates

*Thresholds Program Has Long History with UUCDC*

Our congregation is widely known for seeking out and embracing meaningful opportunities to advance social justice in Delaware County. Thresholds is a program that began with the seed of an idea planted on a Sunday here in our church in 1972. An article about the history of Thresholds in a 1978 issue of *The Evening Bulletin*, described how the pastor of the Unitarian Church in Media, turned over the pulpit to a “long-haired hippie” newly released from Delaware County Prison after a week’s incarceration for taking part in a peace demonstration. The youth, dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, delivered an impressive sermon about his experience with the poor conditions of the prison.



This event inspired our church members, in cooperation with other organizations, to find a program that involved citizens in the operation of the Delaware County Prison. They selected a program created by Mickey Burglass, who had spent time in a New Orleans Parish Prison where he noticed that many inmates were in trouble due to poor decision making. After his release from prison, Burglass developed the Thresholds Decision-Making Model in his graduate work at Harvard University. The model is a way to focus on how decisions are made, and consists of 6 steps: define the situation,

set a goal, develop the possibilities, evaluate the possibilities, make the decision, and implement the decision.

Today approximately 50 active volunteers conduct Thresholds programs at the State Correctional Institute Chester and the G.W. Correctional Facility (formerly Delaware County Prison). The full program lasts 6 weeks and trained volunteers teach the material in a classroom setting and individually mentor prison inmates. Four UUCDC members have served in DELCO Thresholds leadership positions, including Elek Fenyes who is currently president.

Thresholds works with other supporting organizations, including Be Proud that focuses on juveniles, Delaware County Community College that looks to enroll Thresholds graduates and assist with financial aid, and also the UUPLAN Mass Incarceration Project at work on designing an after-release program for inmates.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30 and 11:15 am

Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 am

Monthly spiritual themes:  
Vision, Sanctuary and Memory



Sept 2 - Rev. Kent Matthies  
(One service at 10 am)

Sept 9 - Ingathering  
(One service at 10 am)

Sept 16 - Rev. Libby Smith  
(9:30 and 11:15)  
RE classes resume at 9:30 am

Sept 23 - Rev. Peter

Sept 30 - Rev. Peter

Oct 7 - Rev. Peter

Oct 14 - Rev. Peter

Oct 21 - Rev. Alison Cornish

Oct 28 - Special Music Service

Nov 4 - Rev. Peter

Nov 11 - Rev. Peter

Nov 18 - Thanksgiving Service

Nov 25 - Rev. Andrew Weber  
(One service at 10 am)

## In this issue:



Curiosity Club, Soul Matters, Jr and Crossing Paths, all new in Religious Education



Social Justice and Outreach Ministry Team at work in four action groups

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County is a Welcoming Congregation that seeks to celebrate and support the lives, relationships and contributions of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members and friends. We affirm and promote full participation of everyone in the life of our congregation and community.

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## FROM THE MINISTER

### The Invitation

The E-vite lands  
in your inbox  
with the other 6am chaff.

[“Click Here to View Your Invitation”](#)

You don't recognize the sender,  
but you're intrigued, so you do.

In flowing calligraphic script,  
you read:

*You're Invited!*

*Date: Today*

*Place: Here*

*Time: Now*

*Dress: Come as you are*

You read on...

*Everything you need has been provided.*

*We only ask that you bring your own:*

*Imagination*

*Creativity*

*Vision*

*Hope*

*Mercy*

*Love*

*Joy*

*More Love, because you can never have enough.*

*A fruit salad or pie would be nice.*

*Invite your friends – space is unlimited.*

*The more the merrier.*

And then it asks:

*Will You Attend?*

*Please Click*

*“Yes” or “No”*

- Rev. Peter Friedrichs

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Would you like to help? Elek tells us that every non-profit organization struggles with securing enough funding and recruiting and retaining volunteers. Thresholds starts volunteer recruiting with a prison tour. The G.W. Hill Correctional Facility allows potential volunteers to familiarize themselves with the prison setting and to meet some inmates to talk about the Thresholds program. You can participate in this prison tour and attend an upcoming fundraising presentation, where you will hear from a successful Thresholds graduate who has an amazing story. And when it's time to “share the plate” in our Sunday service, your generosity is appreciated! For more information, Elek is often available at Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, or contact him at [thresholds@uucdc.org](mailto:thresholds@uucdc.org).

## Weaving Our Soul Matters Themes into RE

Our Soul Matters groups are a thriving Adult Religious Education (RE) program at UUCDC. Themes help guide our worship, sermon topics, and are used for discussion in our small sharing circles that meet monthly. This year we are integrating thematic ministry more fully into RE for children and youth.



At the 9:30 service, our children will be in the sanctuary for the first part of the service every Sunday. This gives our whole community an opportunity to interact with the themes and learn from one another.

This year there will be monthly Soul Matters theme sessions in Children's RE. Our preschool, kindergarten and first graders will have *Curiosity Club*, during which they will hear a story and then engage with the theme through play, music, crafts, and/or service projects. Our second through fifth graders will have a similar monthly session called *Soul Matters Jr.* These will take place on Sunday morning during the regular RE time.

Our sixth and seventh graders have a new World Religions curriculum, *Crossing Paths*. This curriculum is tied to our monthly themes and will give our middle schoolers a chance to explore the similarities and differences between Unitarian Universalism and other faiths.

Coming of Age (eighth and ninth graders) will have Soul Matters themes woven into their mentor group discussions and our high school youth group (YUUCKIs) will have access to these materials as well.

*Chrissy Bushyager*  
*Director of Religious Education*

### Adult UU101 - Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11

Learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCDC in this four-session course held right after 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Required for membership, but you don't have to be a “newbie” to attend. Lunch is provided. Register online or in the office. Missed it? Watch for Spring class dates.

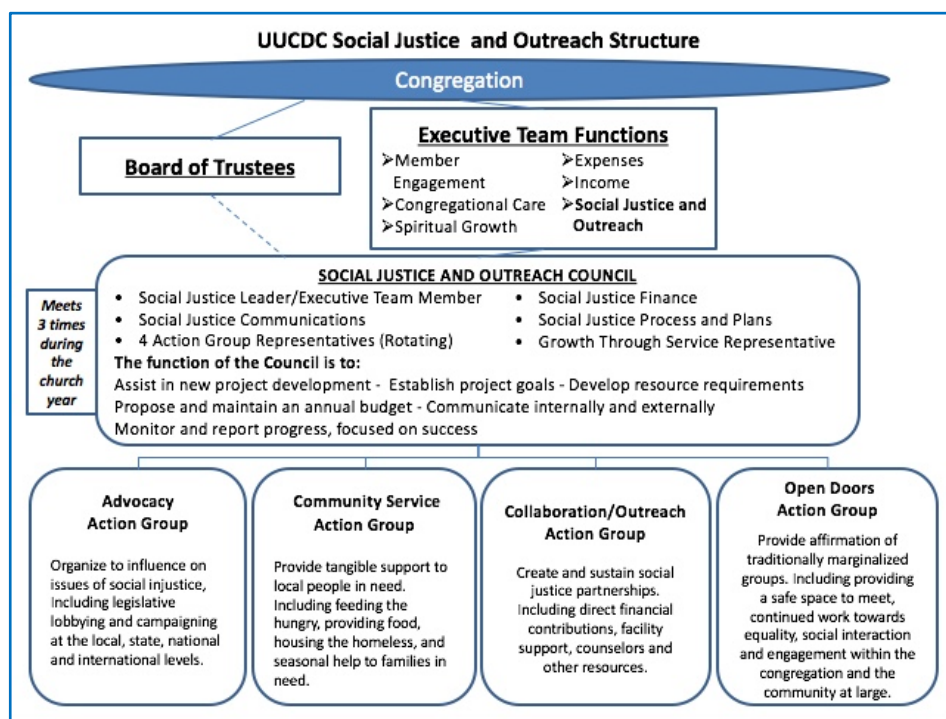


## Social Justice and Outreach Work at UUCDC

UU purposes and principles call us to commit ourselves not only to celebrating our religious values, but also to put them into practice. The social justice and outreach work of our church is done by a significant number of our members and friends and is one of the things for which UUCDC is best known. To better organize efforts, the Social Justice and Outreach team was reorganized and is now fully implemented.

Susan Rubinstein was elected to a newly created position on the Executive Team in June 2016 and is responsible for this important work. Susan leads the Social Justice and Outreach Council, which meets 3 times a year and assists in new project development, establishes project goals, develops resource requirements, proposes and maintains an annual budget, communicates internally and externally, monitors and reports progress and is focused on success.

The SJO Council is supplemented by a liaison from the Growth Through Service Team plus representatives from each of the four Action Groups, who organize current and future initiatives into teams with common objectives.



The **Advocacy Action Group** works on issues of social injustice and does legislative lobbying and issues campaigning at the local, state, national and international levels.

The **Community Service Action Group** provides tangible support to local people in need. Tasks include directly feeding the hungry, providing food, housing the homeless and helping families in need at the holidays.

The **Collaboration/Outreach Action Group** creates and sustains social justice partnerships. It organizes financial contributions, facility support, counselors and other resources.

The **Open Doors Action Group** affirms traditionally marginalized groups. It provides a safe space to meet and works toward equality, social interaction and engagement within the congregation and with the wider community.

*Bulletin boards outside Fellowship Hall describe our programs and how to volunteer. Questions? Email - [justiceandoutreach@uucdc.org](mailto:justiceandoutreach@uucdc.org)*



## Many Thanks to the Many Who Made 2018-19 Financial Commitments



The Giving/Fund Drive team is honored by every contribution that those involved with this congregation commit to support UUCDC and our work. We appreciate your dedication to our church, our people and programs, and our outreach. We are grateful to the families and individuals who have expressed that they value this community through their annual commitment. We hope everyone will embrace this opportunity to financially support UUCDC as a statement of ownership, dedication and involvement. [www.uucdc.org/annual-commitment-form](http://www.uucdc.org/annual-commitment-form)



## Building Community Membership News

Visitors, members and friends are welcome here. Our zigzag bags for visitors are popular at the greeter desk!!

With Lisa Gelman in place as the member on the Executive Team responsible for Member Engagement, she has filled her committee with committed volunteers ready to serve our community. Kristin Swift will oversee our groups, Sue Price-Redfern will oversee our communications, and Laurie Cooke will oversee Sunday morning hospitality. The committee has a plan to kick-start our focus on the visitor and also the long-term member to ensure everyone feels welcome.

The successful hospitality pilot has progressed to a full launch of the team approach starting at Ingathering Sunday and coffee greeters are particularly excited to start using the newly decked out kitchen unit in Fellowship Hall.

Much work has been put into our website as a small team of tech experts deal with some challenges and plan for the next phase of maturity for our site. We have so much going on with our many groups and Sunday activities, that it's important to ensure everyone - new and returning - has access to timely news. We look forward to assessing if there are additional groups and activities that would be of interest and encourage you to share your ideas with a member of the Membership Engagement Committee.

Isn't it time to join a Soul Matters Sharing Circle? Adult groups meet with a trained facilitator 2 hours per month and use the rich Soul Matters resource packets that follow the monthly sermon theme. 2018-2019 registration closes October 14. Email Ruth Hendry at [soulmatters@uucdc.org](mailto:soulmatters@uucdc.org).



## Test Your "In-the-Know" Level

Want to be one of the people at UUCDC who say, "I heard about that", or "We showed up for that", or "It was a great time!" It's easy to keep up with church news and events if you take advantage of our communications channels, one or all that suit your lifestyle. Most anything you need to know is found on our website. Or you can read the weekly Digest or the online [FocusFeed](#) for in-depth and timely news, both arrive in your email. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter and read the order of service announcements or the electronic bulletin board in the lobby. Interested in membership or social justice activities? Check out the info walls outside Fellowship Hall with descriptions of programs, activities and the leader to contact. Miss a Sunday service or have a favorite sermon you'd like to hear again? Our website has video, podcast and text versions. Need our calendar? Breeze calendar link on the church website lists all UUCDC events. Our office staff is also a great source of information and can help connect you. Be in the know!



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### Who's Who at UUCDC

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Joe Miller**, President  
**Brad Randall**, Vice President  
**Marge Caton**  
**Jason Glass**  
**Jill Leonardi**  
**Natalie Silver**

#### STAFF

**Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs**, Minister  
**Bob Rowland**, Music Director  
**Chrissy Bushyager**, Director of Religious Education  
**Rina Jurceka**, Administrator  
**Megan Grissom**, Administrative Assistant  
**Carol Getty**, Sexton  
**Joy Thiessen**, Accompanist  
**Jasmine Leon**, **Donna Esbenson-Alpini**,  
**Leah Laferriere**, Child Care  
**Denise Leo**, Bookkeeper

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Peter Cooke**  
**Rev. Peter Friedrichs**  
**Lisa Gelman**  
**Susan Rubinstein**  
**Ann Seidman**