

Minister's Report

SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 25, 2019

LIST OF REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED

- ☪ Monthly Board Meeting
- ☪ Monthly Westchester UU Ministers
- ☪ Monthly UUMA Cluster
- ☪ Monthly Committee on Ministry Meeting
- ☪ Monthly Visit with Mentee
- ☪ Weekly Supervision with DRE
- ☪ Bi-weekly Staff Meetings
- ☪ Weekly Podcast Recording
- ☪ Adult Coming of Age (twice a month)

IRREGULAR MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONSULTATIONS AND RITES OF PASSAGE

- ☪ Officiated Funeral for Bob Caronia

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 23:	Waiting at the Border
Monday, December 24:	Christmas Eve
Sunday, January 6:	Joy of Simplicity
Sunday, January 13:	Cold and Broken Hallelujah
Sunday, January 20:	Program Group
Sunday, January 27:	Program Group
Sunday, February 3:	Youth Sunday
Sunday, February 10:	Deepest Desire
Sunday, February 17:	Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Meredith Garmon
Sunday, February 24:	Program Group

December Theme:	Curiosity
January Theme:	Simplicity
February Theme:	Desire
March Theme:	Humility

INSIDE THE CONGREGATION

- A. There are social justice needs and opportunities in the area, but the congregation's interest is low to the point of becoming alarming. SURJ (Showing up for Racial Justice) is active, there's major immigration work needed, and climate change is creating chaos, but our congregation – as a group – isn't engaged in any of it. If I preach on social justice issues, a few people are grateful but far more are annoyed. They say they come here to get away from "that stuff". We are in a critical moment in our nation's history but our congregation isn't responding. I have moral concerns about that, but as a board, the concern I'm bringing to you is our slide into irrelevance if we continue on this path.
- B. As a congregation, we're demonstrating signs of poor health. Every congregation across denominations is shrinking. The healthy ones are pulling together, getting creative, and making plans for the future. Ours is turning inward, flirting with in-fighting, pointing fingers and thinking an agreement on who's to blame will solve the problem rather than seeking healthy approaches to this new challenge. I'm afraid this doesn't bode well for our future.
- C. I have joined a cohort of ministers struggling with their congregations to make the changes needed to meet

these complicated times. I am giving up time on my day off for the next 14 weeks to work with them as we seek creative solutions together.

- D. One of the ideas I've been working with is a seven day church model. We've been experimenting already but only in very small ways. If we're ready, as a congregation, to let go of blame and start working together toward a new vision of our future, I suspect this would be the way to begin.

UPCOMING DATES

<i>Stewardship Dinner:</i>	<i>Saturday, March 2</i>
<i>Stewardship Kick-off:</i>	<i>Sunday, March 3</i>
<i>Multi-Congregational Worship:</i>	<i>Sunday, March 17</i>