

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim . . .

We've come a long way!

In August of 2011 I joined a congregation in some pain, grief, and recovering from conflict and mistrust of one another. I can say with confidence that I am leaving a much different congregation—one that is working together, with a sense of direction and purpose, and looking toward the future with anticipation and zest! I've worked with two excellent Boards, and thank each of you, and in particular thank Janet Press, David Schuler, and now Ginny Strand for your leadership. I admire your dedication and love for this congregation.

I thank my transition team, Howard Garson, Al Rocchi Janet Bear and especially to Mary Cavallero for helping me get my bearings when I arrived and for your good advice during my time here.

I appreciate the work of the Worship Committee, and thank Carole Mehta, past chair, and Petra Thombs, the new chair, for conversations about worship, for conducting services with me and for arranging Sundays when I was not in the pulpit.

To Tom Rosenbaum, thank you for coordinating ushers and for making sure everything was set up for Sunday mornings. I knew I could relax because I knew I was in such good hands.

Kudos to the music staff—to Adam, Lisa and Georgianna, for excellence in music. To Lily Rappaport, the Acting Director of Religious Education, for hitting the ground running and overseeing a wonderful program. And to church administrator Liliana Keith, for your care and commitment to this congregation. It was a delight to work with you all!

And to all of you in this religious community, to all of you who do the work of the church: I had a great time with you and I wish you all the best in your ministry with Rev. Meredith. May we give thanks for this place, for these companions on the path, and for the holy work we are engaged in. Amen.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



June 2013

Inside this issue:

	Page:
From our Interim	1
Sunday Worship	2
Board of Trustees	2
Religious Education	4
Search Committee	5
CUC Mission	6
Events	7-10
Calendar	11

JUNE SERVICES 2013, 10:15 A M

June 2. **Flower Power. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere.** Our annual intergenerational spring celebration. *Don't forget to bring flowers for Flower Communion!*

June 9. **RE Sunday and Bridging**

During the service CUC will recognize our Religious Education teachers and volunteers for their service and commitment to the Religious Education program. Also we will honor our graduating seniors in a bridging ceremony which celebrates the transition of Unitarian Universalist youth moving into young adulthood.

June 16. **The March on Washington and a Merry-Go-Round. Amy Nathan**

June 23. **Does Freedom have a Back Door? Petra Thombs & Poet David Mills.** Annual Juneteenth Commemorative Lay led Service.

June 30. **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin -- A Scientific Mystic for the Digital Age. Jennifer Lewis.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“A Year in Review”

Wow.... hard to believe but this is my last Communitarian column, as my year as your Board Chair is quickly coming to an end. In that funny way that time travels, my first column last summer seems like a long time ago, but the months in between seem to have flown by in a blur, from Benjamin, to Lily, to kitchen, to Search, to Sandy, to Auction, to Seeger, to kitchen, to Search, to Meredith. Perhaps there is a symmetry to it after all. I'll try to catch my breath in this column and reflect on the eventful year we've had at CUC.

Benjamin led us through another year of the interim process, including a strategic planning retreat with the Board and Search Committee in the early fall. One of the year's highlights was the district-wide mission and vision workshop led by Rev. Robert Latham in January. Beyond his interim work, Benjamin has been a great worship leader on Sunday mornings, exploring intellectual and historical themes, pushing us to grow spiritually and as a community, and leading us enthusiastically with his hand-clapping gospels. We will celebrate Benjamin's time with us at the CUC BBQ on June 9th. In addition, Lily Rappaport had a very positive debut as our Acting DRE, quickly fitting into the CUC family.

We had some very tangible successes this year. Though it was much more challenging, lengthy, and costly than projected, our new kitchen is up and running, and thanks again to Ted Kuczinski for his patience AND OR PATIENT persistence in leading the project. We had a great inaugural brunch to celebrate the Giving Campaign; and we're a much more green congregation as we wash our cups and plates on Sunday mornings rather than throw them away. Another success this year was a new church directory, which will be delivered in the next few

months – thanks to Karen and Ray Schmitt for leading that long overdue project. Also, we had a fabulous benefit concert with Pete Seeger and Jim Scott. We filled the sanctuary with people, song, and spirit, and we raised over \$7,500 for the UU Service Committee. Thanks to Gary Press and his team for that effort.

Additionally, we have had a very sound financial year at CUC. Because of about ten rentals by film crews – thanks to Liliana Keith for administering the process – we have not had to draw any funds from the endowment this year. Combined with the strong stock market this year, our endowment is now over a million dollars. Furthermore, we had a successful Giving Campaign, exceeding last year's total and raising pledges totaling over \$360,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Thanks to Janet Press, Jane Dixon, and their team for leading a great campaign.

And last, but certainly far from least, in recognizing successes and giving thanks, the congregation called Rev. Meredith Garmon in May to be our next settled minister. Bookended by two stimulating and impassioned Sunday sermons, we had a full week of events and activities, in which Meredith and congregants enthusiastically started to build our relationships together. Thanks – and more thanks – to the Search Committee for their full year of dedicated service. Kudos to Emily, Jeff, Ted, Lori, Diana, Janice, and Al – well done!

Wow....it has been a full year! Thanks for the honor and privilege of leading CUC through such an eventful period in our history.

~ David Schuler, Board Chair

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES...

Ingrid Hartmann

Ingrid has been involved with CUC for about 20 years. She was raised Lutheran, but was always plagued with doubts. She was convinced that she was a Unitarian when she attended a Memorial Service (officiated by The Rev. Shannon Bernard) for a friend of the family. She feels deeply connected to CUC and is honored to be asked to serve on the board.

Ingrid finds her Caring & Sharing Circle involvement both rewarding and heartbreaking. She has also been involved with the Welcoming Committee. Ingrid and her sister Astrid have jointly hosted auction dinners from the onset. The first one, an after Church Brunch. The people who bid on that have become their closest friends. CUC is Ingrid's home away from home.

Ingrid was born in Germany. She came to the US in 1953 and has been married to her husband Manfred for almost 56 years. They have 3 grown children and two grown grandchildren. She worked for Lufthansa German Airlines as a Teletype Operator and in later years for White Plains Hospital in the Admitting Office. She retired from WPH after 35 years.

"Exciting times are ahead. I am proud to be part of it."

Barry Litcofsky

Barry and his wife, Tricia, were married at CUC and began attending in 1980. Their children, Kevin and Kaitlyn, attended RE from infants to Coming of Age, and are both now in the early stages of their own careers. Barry has been a Finance Committee member for over 20 years, with the main focus of managing the Endowment Fund. Additionally, he served a three-year term on the BOT in the late 1990's and several years on the Canvass Committee. Professionally, he has been with Merrill Lynch for 25 years and works in White Plains as a Financial Advisor.

Barry is looking forward to being a member of the Board of Trustees, as CUC continues to evolve and move forward in defining and achieving our Mission.

Karen Schmitt

Karen embraced Unitarianism in 2004, shortly after moving from New York City to Westchester. Since then, she has served many years as a teacher in the RE program, co-chaired the Community Outreach program, served on the pledge committee, and most recently managed the process to create CUC's new photo directory.

Karen has been actively involved in the Rye public schools, serving on various Parents' Organization Boards as Treasurer and Vice Chairman. She has also served as a Girl Scout troop leader for seven years.

Prior to Karen's move to Westchester, she worked in financial services at Merrill Lynch for twelve years. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a BS in computer science from MIT.

Karen enjoys traveling, and recently journeyed to Yellowknife, Canada to see the Northern Lights. Her teenage daughters Kelsey and Emma have gone through the complete RE program at CUC. Karen follows in her husband Ray's footsteps by volunteering to join CUC's Board of Trustees, and looks forward to working towards a bright future at CUC with our new minister.

Recording Secretary

1 year term

Johanna Bauer

Johanna began attending the First Unitarian Society in Hartford, Connecticut in 1962. In 1995 she was looking for a place for religious education and worship for herself and her four children and found CUC. At that time they were living in the Bronx and have subsequently moved to New Rochelle. Her youngest son completed his Coming of Age in 2006.

Service to the CUC community has included seven years as an RE teacher, two stints as a Coming of Age Mentor, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, from 2006 to 2009, co-chair of the Community

Action Project and is currently Secretary to the Board of Trustees as of last year.

Johanna works as an investigator with the US Department of Labor enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Treasurer

1 year term

Nicole Silton Klemens

Nicole (aka Nicky) is a life long UU who grew up here at CUC. She has served in numerous capacities over the last 20+ years, including serving on the Religious Education board, the audit, auction, long term building/planning, kitchen, safe congregations, caring& sharing committees, various community outreach projects as well as a 3 year term on the Board of Trustees, including 1 year as Board Chair. This past year, she has served as Treasurer, member of the Finance committee, as well as Auction and kitchen projects.

In her professional life, Nicky owns her own business, Let's Get Organized LLC, a daily money management and organizing firm that serves elderly, busy professionals and small businesses. Previously, she worked for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in various positions in Sales and Reservations. She holds a BA in Psychology from Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton, NY.

Nicky's 2 sons, Dan and Rob completed their religious education at CUC. Both are away at (different) colleges in Connecticut during the school year.

She looks forward to continuing being part of the BOT as CUC moves towards congregational growth and financial stability.

Affirmation Ceremony

At the heart of our religion is the idea of questioning, seeking, wondering and exploring ideas. In Religious Education classes, we teach our children to have faith in themselves. We teach even the youngest members of our congregations that they are welcome in our community. We like to hear their voices, we like to hear their ideas, and we think they are special.

On May 19, the second and third grade classes had their Affirmation Ceremony and an opportunity to demonstrate what they learned about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Together as a group, the children recited each of the seven UU principles:



What Do We Believe?

The Seven UU Principles:

1. We're all #1.
2. Be fair and kind.
3. We learn and grow together.
4. We are free to search for the truth.
5. Vote for what is right.
6. We work for Peace, Freedom, Justice.
7. We are all part of the earth.

After the presentation, the children delighted us with a seven principles adaptation of the popular tune "We've Got the Whole World." Then it was time for each child to receive a colorful banner containing patches of the seven UU principles.

Congratulations to third graders: **Joseph Kramer, Nicholas Kramer, Abigail O'Malley, Nadia Ryan, Josephine Svarre**. And to Second graders: **Violet Bowen-Rink, Celena Bradley, Abigail Breault, Tanner Dandridge, Trent Munch, Zachary Prince, Ellis Ryan, Juliette Sullivan**. We are so proud of you!

Nurturing and stimulating our children's spiritual and personal growth is an endeavor that continues even after they complete Religious Education classes. This year RE Council awarded college scholarships to three of our deserving high school seniors. Congratulations to **Michelle Reichman**, recipient of the Sylvia Schnall-Pierorazio award, who will be attending Northeastern University in Boston; to **Jillian Cacchione**, recipient of Eric Rudolf Mattutat award, who will be at Binghamton University; and to **Julia Wells**, receiver of the Elizabeth Baker award, who will be attending Wellesley College.

~ *Lily Rappaport*, Acting Director of Religious Education

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



THE “FINAL” REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



Viewing the video of Rev. Meredith coming back into the sanctuary after the congregational meeting on May 5, walking up to the pulpit amid cheers and applause, and declaring that “we have work to do....I accept your call” was indeed a sweet reminder for the members of the Search Committee that our work is now, at long last, complete. Even for those of us who had been there through the meeting, the counting of the votes, telephoning Rev. Meredith to tell him that the congregation had overwhelmingly voted “yes” to his call as our next settled minister, and eating the “welcome” cake – watching his acceptance once again was indeed moving.

This is a bit like an end of school celebration, where the speaker reminds the graduates that “commencement” means not just the end, but the beginning of the next phase. We seven spent a year in this search. In the first phase, we focused on our congregation – who we are, where we want to be, what kind of minister will get us there. Then we learned about our ministerial candidates, looked at their profiles, listened to their sermons. We conducted ten telephone interviews, and selected three candidates for pre-candidating weekends. After intense discussion and debate, the committee as a whole voted to extend the invitation to Rev. Meredith to be the final candidate. As he was our first choice, we were his. A good sign!

After an exhilarating – and somewhat grueling – candidating week in which Rev. Meredith participated in meetings and meals, receptions and even a midnight run, bookended by two Sunday sermons, the congregation enthusiastically extended the call. Listening to the comments from the congregation during the discussion on May 5 underscored for us on the committee that Rev. Meredith had already connected in a genuine and personal way with many of us. We sensed the congregation’s eagerness and openness to his ministry, and know he accepted wholeheartedly.

Now we move on to the next phase – we have our next settled minister for CUC, and we begin anew. Some of the committee will continue on as members of Rev. Meredith’s Committee on Ministry, and all of us will be available to make him welcome and assist in the transition. We ask that you also consider this a beginning by welcoming Meredith and LoraKim in multiple ways in the coming years.

On behalf of all of us on the committee, one last heartfelt thank you. Throughout this year, you were consistently supportive, appreciative of our efforts, and respectful of the confidentiality of the process. You inspired us.

Diana Echevarria, Emily Economou, Ted Kuczinski,
Al Rocchi, Lori Saccardi, Janice Silverberg, Jeff Tomlinson

The text of Rev. Meredith Garmon's sermons
in White Plains is being posted at:

<http://liberalpulpit.blogspot.com/>

WHY?.....OUR MISSION

Update on forming a MISSION Statement

In the May update, we reported the results of the Conversation Circles. We learned about your individual preferences for the Seven Principles, which gives us one flavor of information about our values and "what's important to us" at a very high level. We also listened to your individual dreams for the future of CUC, where the focus was brought down to a much more specific perspective. The Mission Committee (Mary Cavallero, Joe Majask and Randy Marshall) sifted and categorized the individual dreams and gained additional insight about, "what's important to you" but from a slightly different point-of-view.

What's next?

In May Rev. Meredith joined a meeting of the Mission Committee. We shared the information that we have collected in the Conversation Circles, and he found the results to be informative. His experience and passion for having an energizing Mission Statement became immediately evident. We realized that it would be wise to engage our incoming minister in the process. The Committee agreed to move forward with Rev. Meredith's input and to offer additional exercises designed to further refine the feedback from our congregation - ultimately resulting in a Mission Statement that resonates with each one of us and ***Calls Us to Action***.

The next exercise from Rev. Meredith can be found after this article. We believe you will find the exercises to be interesting, creative, and intellectually challenging. Your thoughtful responses will be invaluable, and we will need your help.

The work of the Mission Committee will continue over the summer and into the fall. We will take the time necessary to build and test a Mission Statement that you will be proud to recite to friends, newcomers - and each other!"

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Majask, Mary Cavallero & Randy Marshall

Questions for each of us to consider- to help us to develop a mission statement:

In what ways does being a UU make a person different from what they would otherwise be?

How do we expect UUs generally to grow, develop, deepen, and mature?

There will be opportunities this summer & fall to discuss these questions.

Rev. Meredith Garmon expects to meet with as many congregants as possible in small group meetings starting in August, primarily to get to know us. He'll also be bringing up these questions and conveying the findings.

Saturday, June 1, 2013 at 7:00 pm

The Third B: Works of Johannes Brahms

Pianist and CUC Music Director Adam Kent performs works by Johannes Brahms, including the towering *Variations and Fuge on a Theme by Handel*.

Clarinetist Enid Blount Press joins Adam for Brahms' F Minor Clarinet Sonata.

Suggested donation \$20 (\$10 for Seniors and Students)

For more information contact us at

(914) 946-1660 ext. 8 or visit www.cucwp.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE

June 9th Annual Meeting

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 9, 2013 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC's operating budget for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Annual End-of-Year BBQ

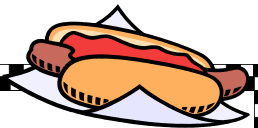
Sunday, June 9th

11:30 am

Steaks, hot dogs, chicken and other good food will be served along with lots of fun!

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the church lobby.

\$6 adults / \$4 children



Juneteenth Celebrations

Thursday, June 6th—First Annual Awards Gala, 7:00 PM

The First annual Juneteenth Gala at the Double Tree in Tarry town at 7pm. Tickets are \$125.00. Honorees are: Mack Carter, Executive Director of the WP Housing authority, Earl Graves, CEO of black Enterprise Magazine, Mayor Joseph Delphino, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

455 South Broadway, Tarrytown. For information contact: Frank William [914-715-2762](tel:914-715-2762).

Saturday, June 8th— Festival, noon to 6:00 pm

The Annual Juneteenth Festival will be held on June 8th at 12:00 noon

Eastview Field in White Plains.

This year due to the lack of funding the Parade has been cancelled. However, we are having our Festival celebration. Please join us for food, entertainment and fun.

Sunday, June 23rd—Juneteenth Service at CUC.

This will be our church's annual Juneteenth Commemorative Lay Led Service. Petra Thombs will be joined by David Mills, poet. The sermon is entitled, *Does Freedom have a Back Door?*

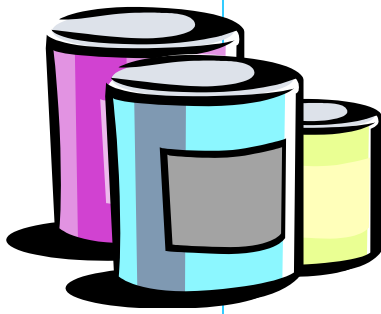
For information on any of these events, contact Petra Thombs at pthombs@optonline.net or at 831-8618.

Midnight Run

**Friday, June 21st
8 PM and beyond.**

Help feed the homeless in Manhattan. Provide clothing. Help with food preparation. This well organized event is a great way to help others and work with other CUC members and friends, from our youth to our grandparents.

For more information contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 831-5605.



Thank You!

CUC sent \$1262 to the Food Pantry at the end of April. This will qualify for proportional matching funds from the Feinstein Foundation. Many thanks to all who contributed.

~ Vicky Van Wert

Thank You!

CUC's Got Talent Fundraising Event, May 11th.—It was a blast! It was a big success!

We had **21 acts perform**. Even though it was a rainy day, so much incredible talent lit up the room.

There was piano and violin playing, singing, acting, gymnastics, dancing, comedy and much more!

Eleven really awesome prizes were raffled off, ranging from gift certificates for lunch or dinner at fabulous local restaurants, to passes for kids to jump and play at Pump It Up!

And...we raised \$1,133 for KIDS IN CRISIS!*

For our first talent show, that is pretty incredible.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the show - from organizers, to performers, to helpers and audience members. The only reason that this show was successful is because **YOU** invested your time and energy into it. **YOU** believed in the show, and **YOU** believed in helping Kids In Crisis. This was RE's **BIG SOCIAL ACTION** project this year. And hopefully, this was just the first of many projects like this to come.

*Kids In Crisis is a unique organization, located in Cos Cob, CT. It provides emergency shelter, therapeutic services and educational programs for children dealing with a wide range of crises. KIC also organizes Safe Place locations, and goes into schools to counsel children through programs such as SafeTalk, and TeenTalk. There is no other local organization like Kids In Crisis. For more information, please visit www.kidsincrisis.org.

~ Submitted by **Liz Suvanto**

In Memory...

Out thoughts are with Scott & Ann Marie Damashek. Scott's father, Henry Damashek, died on May 23rd at the age of 90.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout June contact **Gail McLeod** at 235-8212 or gail.w.mcleod@gmail.com or **Ingrid Hartmann** at 946-2026 or wwwingrid@wtv.net.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

This year I am excited to again be an off-site Delegate for General Assembly. As many of you know, General Assembly (GA) is in Louisville, KY June 19-23. General Assembly is an exciting place to be but not everyone can afford to attend. So join me at CUC to view the plenary meetings, GA worship services, Service of the Living Tradition and the Ware Lecture to be delivered by Eboo Patel. See the General Assembly flyer on the bulletin board "UU's in the news" for times for viewing at CUC in Room 41. I'll be there so please join me. Or you can view GA via video streaming from your home computer. You can test out your computer on last year's GA videos at the UUA website - www.uua.org/ga/2012. If you have questions ask me how to do it. If you tried last year and were unsuccessful, I would be willing to stop by to help you set it up. Email me at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com or call 914 310-0244.

Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, is featured in a CBS documentary, Religion & Spirituality in a Changing Society. There is a large segment of the program featuring Unitarian Universalists. Please watch by following the link to <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50144670n>.

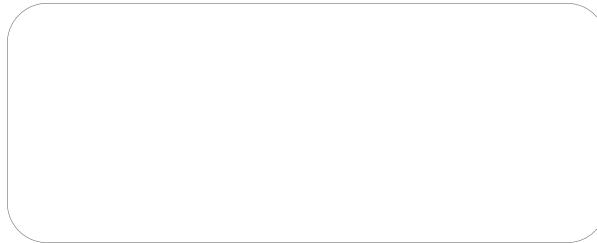
The Living Legacy Project is sponsoring the 2013 Living Legacy Pilgrimage to civil rights sites in Alabama and Mississippi from September 21-28. The Pilgrimage provides an opportunity for UUs and friends to discover the history, courage, and commitment of the struggle for civil rights in this country. Along with visiting historic sites, participants will meet with civil rights movement veterans. Participants will explore what today's racism, white privilege, and barriers to equality look like in the Southern towns they visit, and in their own hometowns. Early bird registration runs through June 30. Pilgrimage leaders will be the Rev. Hope Johnson, Minister at the UU Congregation of Central Nassau (Garden City NY), Janice Marie Johnson, Judy Gibson, Reggie Harris, and Annette Marquis. To learn more follow link to <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/index.html>.

~ Denise Tomlinson

~ JUNE 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Brahms Concert, 7 pm 
2 8:45 am Choir 9:30a Auction Committee 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:45 In The Spirit of Truth	3 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	4 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7	8
9 8:45 am Choir 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30 Congregational Meeting Noon, Annual BBQ 	10 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	11	12 7:30 p Board of Trustees	13 11:30 am Science & Spirituality	14	15
16 Father's Day Communitarian Deadline 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	17 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	18 7:30 pm Worship Associates	19	20	21 8 pm, Midnight Run	22
23 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	24	25	26 7:30 RE Council	27	28	29
30 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)						

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Founded 1909

Interim Minister

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
minister@cucwp.org
914-946-1660 x3

Acting Director of Religious Education

Lily Rappaport
dre4cucwp@yahoo.com
914-946-1660 x4

Church Administrator

Liliana Keith
admin@cucwp.org
914-946-1660 x2

Music Director

Adam Kent
Ask185@aol.com

Choir Director

Lisa Meyer
lisa.meyer@liu.edu

**Community Minister
in Association with CUC**

The Rev. Deb Morra
getreal714@verizon.net
914-946-1660 x6

Bookkeeper

Susan King
sccking98@gmail.com
914-946-1660 x7

Board of Trustees

Chair, David Schuler
914-831-5606
davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Nicky Klemens
914-967-4419
nsklemens@optonline.net

Communitarian Deadline for
March Edition:

Sunday, June 16

Submit information to
Emily Economou, Editor
emily.economou@gmail.com