

PRESS RELEASE



Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation *A "Welcoming Congregation"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2010

Toms River's Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) is moving to its first-ever permanent home at 734 Route 37 West, Toms River, in the Holiday Mall. Inaugural service at our new location will be 10:30 AM, Sunday April 4, 2010. The topic for the first service in our new location is "What Would Jesus Do With A Storefront?," presented by guest speaker Reverend Craig Hirshberg.

Reverend Hirshberg is a community minister in private practice, specializing in teaching spiritual and contemplative practices and facilitating spiritual formation retreats. She holds a Masters in Divinity from Drew Theological School, and has completed the Spiritual Direction program at Shalem Institute, Washington, DC. She also serves as the District Ministerial Representative for the Unitarian Universalist Metro NY District.

Says UUOCC's president, Bonney Parker, "At last our congregation will have a site that will be visible and available to all who seek a place of worship that welcomes all, no matter who they are, what language they speak, what color their skin, or whom they love. In the long tradition of Unitarian Universalism of a free pulpit we will offer a variety of opinions and practices in our worship services and programs. I am very pleased that the long and arduous task of searching for a permanent location has come to an end, thanks to the congregation members who worked on this project, and we are feeling a renewed energy. I am looking forward to our church being a vital, spiritual part of the market place."

Since mid-2007 our congregation has been a tenant at the United Church of Christ church at 1681 Ridgeway Road (Rt 571) in Toms River. From 2000 to mid-'07 we shared space at the Ocean Academy on Route 9 in Berkeley, and from about '93 until 2000 we were a guest at Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center in Lanoka Harbor.

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*Unitarian Universalists believe in the dignity of each person, and justice and compassion in human relations.
All faith backgrounds, races, ages, and lifestyle orientations are always welcome.
Effective April 4, 2010, services will be held Sundays, 10:30 AM.*

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