

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



Words from Rev. David A. Johnson, Incoming Interim Minister

I am writing this note just one day following the unspeakably horrifying massacre of churchgoers at a historic AME church in Charleston, South Carolina. This tragedy, and its many underlying causes, remain raw and confusing, and are calling forth the best of who we are. Undoubtedly the opportunities and challenges for WUU to re-engage and confront systemic hatred and racism will return to the forefront: Even as we light candles in the darkness and seek to bring hope where hope is hard to find.

Summer arrives in full force. For many, this is an opportunity for rest and renewal. For others, it is a time to re-focus on long-neglected tasks and opportunities. For us Interim Ministers, this is the season of farewells, sorting, packing, moving, and rediscovering new landscapes. My wife, Diann, and I are beginning to close out our obligations in Kalamazoo, Michigan. We expect to drive our two vehicles (and needed possessions, including 2 kitties) to Williamsburg during the last week of July. Through the wisdom provided by many at WUU during my apartment-hunting visit in early June, we now have housing for the next two years! One of our members, Sherri Powers, will be renting to us her home at 522 Spring Trace, in the Seasons Trace community. We expect to begin moving in on Saturday morning August 1. I will on duty in August and preaching at summer worship services on four Sundays in August: the 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and 30th. In the August newsletter I will offer previews of these services.

This coming Sunday, June 21, you will celebrate and bid farewell to Rev. Jennifer Ryu, and honor her for her exemplary ministry at WUU over many years. This is a significant and proud occasion in WUU's history. I shall be cheering you on.

During the month of July I will remain "on call" at the church in Kalamazoo. However, I shall be in touch with many of you at WUU (mostly by phone) to help in my continuing orientation to Williamsburg and WUU. It was twenty-eight years ago when the Johnson family loaded a rental-truck and drove westward, leaving behind our home on Cape Cod, in order to settle in the prairies of eastern Kansas. That has been our family home ever since. We shall continue to maintain our Kansas home as our permanent/legal residence, and return there for items such as medical care. Even so, it is truly wonderful to be returning to the East coast, and to be within a

Share the Plate

Sunday, July 12

The entire plate collection on Sunday, July 12, will be donated to **Williamsburg and Newport News Brain Injury Survivor Support Groups**.

A support group to help those with first-hand experience with brain injuries share, learn, support each other, and have fun.

Please be generous!

For information on our Share the Plate program or to nominate an agency, email stp@wuu.org

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Rev. David Johnson Article Continued

couple hours' drive of the Atlantic Ocean. As a former oceanographer, I have nostalgically looked back on those years (and many weeks at sea) when the deep sea floor was my laboratory for observing and interpreting STT ("stuff-that's-true"): about our earth and life upon earth, and their origins. More recently, my career shift into ministry has re-focused my attention upon STM ("stuff-that-matters"). These two domains are not mutually exclusive. But they do require different lenses, templates, filters, and "doors of perception". Stay tuned.

All good wishes for the summer.

Rev. David A. Johnson, Interim Minister (beginning August 2015)



July Worship Schedule

July 5, 2015

10:00 am

Chris Hockman

"The Climate Crisis: Who has the most to lose?"

Even after recognizing the realities of climate change, it is still difficult to fathom all of its implications. How can we use our theology to understand the impact on our most vulnerable and to respond effectively?

Chris Hockman will begin her final year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School this fall. She lives in Richmond, Virginia and is currently serving as Intern Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula in Newport News.

July 12, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. Charles Swadley

"Just When I Thought I Had All the Answers, Somebody Changed the Questions."

The Rev. Charles Swadley, retired from serving the Methodist Church in Williamsburg, will lead our services on today. In his sermon "Just When I Thought I Had All the Answers, Somebody Changed the Questions," he says that changing times demand

new questions to find better answers to challenging life and institutional matters. For Rev. Swadley, this entails revisiting old stories and seeing new visions of meaning and application.

July 19, 2015

10:00 am

Joe Williams

"Delsarte method"

In the last decades of the nineteenth century a French study of body language and physical training blossomed across the United States. Its revolutionary acceptance of the body inspired clothing reform, women's rights, and was the foundation of modern dance. Come learn a little about the Delsarte method and the important Unitarian contribution through one of the first three teachers of it, Unitarian Minister, the Reverend William Rounseville Alger.

Joe Williams is considered the leading expert in the reconstruction of the Delsarte technique, and he has taught for prominent institutions, including the Juilliard School, the National Center of Dance in Paris, the University of Strasbourg, and more.

July 26, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Morris Hudgins

"The Faith of Our Founders"

There are many misconceptions about the faith of America's founders. In his sermon, Rev. Hudgins will address these misconceptions and the relationship of these founders to Unitarian Universalism.

The Rev. Dr. Morris Hudgins is a retired UU minister now living near Knoxville, TN. He served as a settled minister in four UU churches. He has also served as the interim minister of five churches, including Richmond and Charlottesville. Morris and his wife, Marti Toms, will be visiting us following SUUSI.

From the Board:

June: What a month of milestones! We celebrated, we grieved, we rejoiced, we worked hard, we played, we planned, we closed books.

- Thanks, one and all, for participating in so many ways as we said our final farewells to Jennifer as our minister.
- Thanks, one and all, for welcoming our incoming Interim Minister, Dave Johnson, during his week of meeting and exploring. He seems to think we're quite wonderful! We signed his contract for two years.
- Thanks, Peter Mellette, for preparing all the contracts required for the new mortgage and the Interim Minister and for providing conference room space in May for the Interim Minister Search Committee to interview candidates.
- Thanks, Trustees, for signing the mortgage papers as we prepare to build.
- Thanks, Design Build Team, Guernsey Tingle Architects and general contractor project manager, Chester Kramer, for dotting the "i"s and crossing the "t"s on building specs so the bidding process can be in full swing.
- Thanks, AES civil engineers, for ensuring that all the proper documents have been signed and submitted to James City County for final permission to build.
- Thanks, Dave Banks and Dave Wilcox, who came fully to the rescue in setting up the picnic when staff was out sick. What a wonderful day that was as we gathered with our UU neighbors from Newport News.
- Thanks, Rachel and Becca Delbos, Jane Ferguson, Fred Gilbertson, Linda Lane-Hamilton, and Dave Wilcox for accepting the call to be a Transition Team to help Dave Johnson settle in and get to know the ins and outs of WUU.
- Thanks, teachers and child caregivers, for being ever-present for our children as you led them to deeper understandings of what it means to worship, witness and welcome.
- Thanks, many of you, for moving out into the community to address social justice issues.
- Thanks, staff, for all you have done to keep us going in so many ways, including now as you close the fiscal books of 2014-15.
- Thanks, one and all, for everything you have done and given these past 12 months to make WUU our special home and keep our mission ever moving forward!

Now we look to the beginning of our new fiscal year, July and Beyond:

- Welcoming visiting speakers each Sunday of July.
- Welcoming Dave and Diann Johnson as they come to us on August 1st.
- Beginning to develop plans for securing funding from sources outside of WUU. If you are interested in helping in such planning, contact Michael Coirin, the task force chair.
- Preparing for the fall schedule of activities, including education, social justice work, social times, worship and so much more.
- Learning the status of bids and figuring out what we can add or must subtract from the building plans
- OFFICIALLY BREAKING GROUND ON SEPTEMBER 20th! PLEASE PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS.
- And, oh, so much more. Stay tuned through the Newsletters, the Spirals, Facebook...

Between now and then, take time to relax and enjoy -- each other, our wonderful community, and all that surrounds us.

Peace to all,

Lola Warren, Board President



WORSHIP & PASTORAL CARE IN JULY

Rev. Jennifer will be attending General Assembly in Portland, Oregon from June 22-28. She will be in the office on Monday, June 29 & Tuesday, June 30th, which is her last day at WUU.

Since we know that Rev. David Johnson will begin the interim ministry on August 1st, we now have a plan in place for the month of July.

- **WORSHIP:** John Hochella will serve as Worship Team Leader during this month. Worship services for July have been arranged, and John will help coordinate those services.
- **PASTORAL EMERGENCIES:** Rev. Andrew Millard (UU Fellowship in Newport News) will be on-call for pastoral emergencies from July 1-July 16; and July 26-July 31. Rev. Sherman Logan (Richmond UU Church) will be on-call from July 17-25. Contact Ellyn in the Office (220-6830) or President Lola Warren (254-3520).
- **PASTORAL CARE:** Liz Snyder and Ellen Graham coordinate the work of the Caring Ministry Team. Please contact them if you or someone in the congregation could use a supportive phone call or assistance with other needs. Ellen: 253-9074 and Liz: 220-5415. Their email address is listed every week in the Spiral: caringchair@wuu.org.
- **PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:** Martha Elim, Pat Hoppe, and David Hopkinson are available to anyone who needs a non-judgmental, confidential listening presence. They will consult with the Revs. Millard and Logan if a situation requires professional clergy. Please use email to contact Martha (mwelim@cox.net), Pat (phoppesing@cox.net), or David (davidhopkinson111@gmail.com).



The Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group

The next book being discussed is Warrior Poet by Alexis de Veaux.

Join us on July 15 at noon in Fahs House, all are welcome!



Food For FISH (our local community's food & clothing pantry)

Summer is around the corner, so we need to help stock the FISH pantry with easy-to-fix foods for kids home in the summer.

Suggestions are:

Cold cereals, peanut butter and jelly, breakfast bars, small cans of ravioli, spaghetti, macaroni & cheese and puddings.



Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

That's why we want to include a brief member biography in every newsletter.

Maybe you'll discover someone who shares your background, interests, or hobby. Maybe you'll learn something new about someone you already know. Or maybe you'll be moved to reach out to someone who needs to hear from you.

Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, ackleymw@gmail.com

Spotlight on Franz Gross



From the time I was a kid living in upstate New York, I was intrigued by science and math, and was ultimately able to channel these interests into a career in theoretical physics. Following graduate school and appointments at Cornell and UC Santa Barbara, I joined the faculty at William and Mary in 1970. In addition to

teaching and research, I served in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and also participated in the scientific planning for Jefferson Laboratory, where I later became a senior scientist. Now retired, I still enjoy research at a relaxed pace. Married for 37 years to Chris Faia, I live on the Chickahominy River, where each summer we maintain watch over an osprey pair and their offspring, and year around, try to keep up with our blended family of 6 children and 8 grandchildren.

I'm a lifetime UU and a charter member of our congregation. At age 11, my first Sunday school

experience found me in a theological conflict with my teacher (who was a Methodist!). That nearly ended my interest in what was then the Unitarian Church, but when I was in high school, I found membership in the Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) deeply satisfying, and I was present at the LRY meeting in Chautauqua when we voted to join with the Universalists.

Except for a short time in the early '70's, when my young son and I participated in an earlier Williamsburg Fellowship, I was inactive until 1989, when Chris and I joined in signing the charter for WUU. Since that time, I have been a member of the choir, have taught RE, have twice served on the Board and chaired or been a member of several committees, including RE, Finance, Personnel, Worship Associates, the web design team, and one of our search committees for an interim minister. I have also served as Treasurer. I currently serve on the Finance Committee and am very pleased to be a member of the Design/Build Team helping to plan and guide development of our new facilities.

As an atheist and a physicist, I continue to find involvement in WUU interesting, meaningful, and always challenging. Where else could I find a community of people with diverse views who still enjoy talking and debating religious philosophy with one another? I want to do all that I can to build our future, ensuring that this congregation will continue as a healthy and active force for liberal religion and social justice in our community.

2015 Social Justice Summer Mission Project

Come join in WUU's Social Justice project at South of the Ferry in Surry, a ferry ride across the river. In the past, we have gone to West Virginia--to the Southern Appalachian Folklife Center--for our Mission Trips, where needed assistance in the Pipestem area of West Virginia is identified and coordinated by their hired staff. This year, coordinators Dave Wilcox and Jessica O'Brien decided that we would like to work closer to home on a local project.

In 1985, Savannah Williams, a WUU member, purchased South of the Ferry, "a farm and forest land, to be available as an intergenerational, international community in which individuals can learn from nature and one another by sharing skills and resources that provide opportunities for self-reliance and sustainability in a caring environment." Through various projects associated with students, farmers throughout Virginia, and other volunteers, South of the Ferry has participated in the development of self-reliance and self-employment in a caring community.

Over the next few weeks, Savannah, Dave and Jessica will be identifying the work we would like to take on and setting dates for participation. Please keep our Summer Mission Project in mind as you plan your summer. We encourage teenagers and adults to join us. Stay tuned for more information.

Be Part of WALT



One unique way WUU serves our greater community is through the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT). This WUU outreach program brings people together to share in ideas, interests and understanding. By offering a schedule of more than 65 assorted classes twice a year, WALT creates community awareness of WUU and brings people together to learn from each other. The classes offered range from Adventures in Sailing to Yoga and represent the many talents that are a part of our community. If you would like to host a WALT class this Fall by sharing your interests or talents or if you have any ideas for enhancing WALT, please contact Jill Whitten at WALT@wuu.org or 220-9975.

Building Our Future: One Step at a Time

During the last few weeks, most of the Design Build Team's work has been with the Guernsey Tingle Architects. The Team is about to complete their review work in preparation for the anticipated request for proposals from sub-contractors. Once we have these bids, we will work with ET Gresham to make the final selections and have a clearer picture of the building costs. Then, with the final permits approved and the subcontractors selected, we will be able to see the preparations take place for construction.

The following table provides an overview of the activities. However, here are the critical dates:

- **September:** Move in the equipment and prepare the construction site. Mark your calendars for September 20: Ground breaking.
- **November/December:** Complete the basic exterior construction before Winter's bad weather begins.
- **May:** Complete all of the *new* building construction and begin renovations for the Gathering Hall and Commercial Kitchen. Complete site work including paving and landscaping.
- **June:** Occupy the new spaces!



Did you see:

- Three new picnic tables. Thanks to **Fred Bergman, Mohamad Barbarji, Allen Cooke, Franz Gross, and Les Solomon** for delivery and assembly. The tables were initiated at the Potluck, then moved to the Navigators camp out, and will take up semi-permanent residence outside Fahs and Parker. **We do need someone to volunteer to stain them.**
- The **Navigators** have started to build a fire pit near the labyrinth.
- Thanks to the **Delbos family** for offering to cut the labyrinth each week.
- The attics and tool shed have been cleaned out! Many items were sold at the yard sale and four truck loads went to recycle/dump. We need to continue this work in preparation for our new facilities with its new storage space. Every move requires making decisions about what to keep and what to say good bye to.

Fare thee well, lovely Jennifer
Unfurl yet again to the next fork in the road
Now your time of renewal
What a woman you matured into leading us and loving us
Dancing at your "not yet 50" birthday, breaking bread at Thanksgiving
Sweep by in those moments: deaths, births, divorce, jobs, new love
A meditation so deeply led I walk my lake path and all my life experiences
Homilies of compassion, calling for action, calling for transformation
Meeting at the Muscarelle to see 35 years work by my ceramics teacher
A canoe paddle to show you a piece of my zen
Sharing my house for a meeting and walk to share the pink ladyslippers
The raw pain of the separation and divorce, your cousin's suicide, friends' deaths
Always you quest: tweaking the service
Swaying side by side to the music
Planning sessions on my Clara Byrd Baker lunch hour
I find a new voice in your poetry, a new connection speaking from the front
Our Worship Associate guide: planning, questioning, chasing change
Your house on Christmas Day, a couple celebrates with a bounty of food
She reserved, the quiet voice to his cerebral
The excitement of your calling

Ascension by Anne Stevens

Anne gave her permission to share her poem to Jennifer for those that missed the potluck on June 19.



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TIME SENSITIVE

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name? We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact Endowment@wuu.org.

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at office@wuu.org.)



July Anniversaries

David Benson and Tony DeRosa
 Anne and Paul Luchsinger
 Les and Jo Solomon
 Rani and Brian Wachter
 Chris and Dave Wilcox



July Birthdays

Jack Bachner	Glen Morgan
Steve Brecker	Dave Neiman
Eva Burke	Beth Pepper
Michael Coirin	Ben Puckett
Mary DeLara	Bodhi Wolverton-Diggs
Rachel Delbos	Fred Bergmann
Martha Elim	Dulci Russell
Joe Fisler	Rebecca Wheeler
Ruth Fraser	Sally Fisk
David Hamilton	Rani Wachter
Charlotte Lorentson	Sage Wilkins