

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

November 2014



November's Theme is Prayer Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Mark Your Calendar

11.1

Harvest Gathering

11.8

Building Our Future Gala

11.10

Membership Orientation Session A

11.11

Veteran's Day-Office Closed

11.14

Social Justice Movie and Potluck

11.20

Transgender Day of Remembrance

11.27

Office Closed

Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner

11.28

Office Closed

Each month I produce a "Spiritual Practices Guide" to distribute on the first Sunday of the month. There is always a section specifically for families and children. Additional copies are in the rack mounted on the wall in the Narthex. In this issue you will find a variety of prayers that I hope you will try out this month.

What is prayer for Unitarian Universalists? It is an intentional practice of focusing attention on our connection with that which is greater than our own ego. This leaves the option open for all kinds of practice. Often, I hear people say that practically everything is a prayer: pulling weeds, taking a walk, fishing, cooking, bathing the baby, peeling an orange. With so many choices and so little guidance from our tradition, I understand why so many UU's struggle with prayer. While I appreciate the poetry of the idea that everything can be a prayer if we do it with holy intention, I also find it less than helpful for those who are earnestly seeking a way to pray. I hope you will find this month's Spiritual Practices Guide to be helpful.

For me, prayer is simply stating the truth (which is not always easy to state). Here I am. Here are the cries of my heart. Here are the longings of my soul. Here is the Truth of my being.

Continued on page 2...

November 9, 2014

Prayer Article Continued ...

Most of the time, my prayers are questions and statements of not knowing and not understanding. As a result, my personal prayers are not poetic and not pretty, but they are me...here I am.

I have another kind of prayer practice in which I keep a list of everyone I know who is struggling in some way in their lives. It's quite a long list! Several times a week I pray for those people. When I pray for someone, I am not asking an all-powerful being to intercede. When I pray over this list of friends and congregants, I am expressing the longing of my heart that they should be well. I am also affirming that healing is possible. Transformation and forgiveness is possible, and miracles do happen!

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Jennifer



November Worship Service Schedule

November 2, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. David MacPherson

"Transforming The World"

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)

Choices Matter

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Peace

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Community

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Kenn Hurto & Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Souls On Fire"

The Rev. Kenn Hurto is the Southern Region's lead Congregational Life Consultant. He will draw on Elie Wiesel's book to deliver an inspiring message as we begin our capital campaign.

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)

We Are Connect to the Earth in Love

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Service and Leadership

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)

All Together Now

November 16, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Pray, Then, In This Way"

These words precede the most well-known prayer in Christianity. Many of you know this prayer, but do you know the various translations? Early Unitarians and Universalists regularly used the "Lord's Prayer." Why did we stop, and what meaning could it hold for us today?

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)

Love and Acceptance

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Interconnected Web

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Communication

Continued on Page 3



November Worship Schedule Continued

November 23, 2014

11:15am-One Service Only

All-Ages Service

St. Cecilia Day

Each year on the Sunday closest to St Cecilia's name day, the WUU Choir performs an extended choral piece in celebration of the patron saint of music and musicians. This year the 40 member choir will join with a Chamber Orchestra of W&M musicians to perform Mozart's Coronation Mass.

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Prayer of Remembrance

Today we remember those whom we have lost in the last year. Please bring photos and other items that remind you of your loved ones.

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)

UU History Day

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Service

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Decision Making



Harvest Gathering with the UU Garden Ministry

November 1, 2014 @ 4:30pm behind Fahs House

Come celebrate the end of the growing season, honor our beloved dead and help sustain solidarity gardens in Haiti. All ages are welcome to join us, but monsters, ghosts or other folk in costume or big hats will be particularly honored guests. Help turn the wheel of the year and prepare for the winter months with a brief service of music, poetry and planting bulbs. If you are so inspired, bring a favorite food of a departed loved one, a cereal/oatmeal for FISH and/or make a donation to uusc.org (through Ellyn at office@wuu.org) to help sustain garden projects in Haiti. Join us for a cup of cider or go for a walk in the labyrinth after the service.

Food For FISH

(our local community's food & clothing pantry)

For Fish this month, perhaps we can do some treat items (nonperishable) for the holidays...

Cake mix, frostings, cookie mix, pancake mix, syrup, puddings, Jell-O, fruit bars, snack bars.

These are special items that Fish does not have unless given...

Just a reminder that next month we are doing new socks and underwear (all sizes)..

Everything we give to Fish is greatly appreciated.



Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27, 1:00 pm

Spend the holiday feasting with friends old and new at WUU. Rev. Jennifer has been hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck for many years and will do so again. She will roast the turkey--you bring everything else!

Please rsvp to jennifer @ wuu.org

New UU Orientation Classes

In order to become a member of WUU, potential members new are required to attend before joining WUU. Those transferring from other UU congregations are invited to participate so as to learn about us and make new friends. The class will be in the Fahs House 5:30-8:30 p.m. A light supper and childcare will be provided. You may register either at the Visitor Table or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Orientation-november2014>

For answers to questions about orientation call Carolyn Greathouse at 757-903-4196.

There will not be a Fourth Friday Family potluck in November. Congregants and friends of WUU are invited to have a Thanksgiving potluck with Rev. Jennifer providing the turkey. It will take place in the sanctuary at 1pm. Bring an item to share, good appetite and a sense of humor!



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 your 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 Ellen Graham

Ellen Graham has been a member of WUU since 2001, and at various times has co-chaired Bed and Breakfast, co-chaired the yard sale for three years, and handled publicity for two years. Currently, she serves as co-chair of the Caring Committee and is a WUU Trustee.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Ellen moved to suburban Maryland with her family as a teenager. She attended Syracuse University and the University of Maryland, from which she graduated with a major in English. After working for a few years in Washington--at the Brookings Institution and the National Geographic Magazine-- she received a Master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Ellen and her husband, Donald Moffitt, both spent their careers at the Wall Street Journal. Beginning in 1970, Ellen worked as a reporter, feature writer and editor at the paper's New York bureau. In 1999, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in national reporting. Since retirement, she has continued to contribute columns to the Journal on issues of retirement and aging.

She and Don lived for many years in Greenwich Village before moving to Westport, CT, where they lived before moving here in 1999. They have one grown daughter, Julia Moffitt, whom they adopted as an infant from South Korea. Julia lives with her husband Scott and 3 year old son Owen in Key West, FL.

In her spare time, Ellen is active in local Democratic politics, belongs to a short story club, exercises most days at the Y or Rec Center and is an avid reader of nonfiction. She treasures the friends she has made at WUU, and the progressive spirit of the congregation.

Share the Plate Sunday, November 2 - FISH

The Share the Plate collection for Sunday, November 2, will be donated to FISH. This well-known agency, with continuing support from WUU and many others, provides food, clothing and housewares for people in need after referral from other human services agencies. The all-volunteer staff also offers transportation to medical appointments. FISH always needs financial donations to buy new socks and underwear, to fill the food gaps on the shelves, and to pay the rent. Please be generous in supporting this important organization! And please continue to donate food items to the Red FISH Wagon in the WUU lobby. For more information on FISH, visit www.williamsburgfish.weebly.com.

For more information on the Share the Plate program and to nominate a recipient agency, email stp-at-wuu.org.

Gratitude and Thankfulness

As Kerry and I were rushing to get to the 9:15 am WUU service, I was watching the seconds before the service started tick by and was kicking myself for not leaving home earlier. The last thing on my mind was gratitude and thankfulness.

As we walked into our sanctuary, we were welcomed by handshakes and hugs and by the joyous prelude. My demeanor completely changed. We saw many friends among those who had gathered for the early service and saw their welcoming smiles. The service welcomed us, and we were grateful. I looked up at the sanctuary ceiling and out the windows and was thankful for the effort that others before us took to make this place. And grateful for the many hands and treasures that went into keeping WUU a sanctuary for us and those that follow.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am mindful of those around us - like you - who make WUU a special place. Thank you!

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee

Did you see?

Thanks:

Dave & Virginia Banks, Fred & Linda Bergmann, Richard Costello, Elitoes Quenada, Dave Neiman, Steven Sharp, Les Solomon & John Whitley for their work to trim bushes, prune trees, trim the labyrinth, clean stairwells and sanctuary walls, and make a few repairs.

Marcia and Steve Becker for donating the canopy, now in the Fahs play area. Soon, there will be a new picnic bench so that parents can chat and/or eat while watching their children.

Franz Gross for installing an outlet in Fahs so the piano could be returned to the living room. Also in Fahs, we have a new crawlspace door.

Want to volunteer for a small fall project? I may have one just for you!

Les Solomon

Chair, Campus Improvement Team (CIT)

Religious Education Corner



Happy November! This month we are all concentrating on prayer, and the children and youth will be exploring this idea in their Religious Education classes. Our committed volunteers will prepare classes for four different age groups, lower elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2), upper elementary(3, 4, 5), middle (6, 7, 8) and high school (YRUU).

Have you read our program guide? You can find the .pdf on our website www.wuu.org.

Are you collecting for the Guest At Your Table project? Check out this website to learn more: www.uusc.org

Yours In Joy,
Austen Petersen

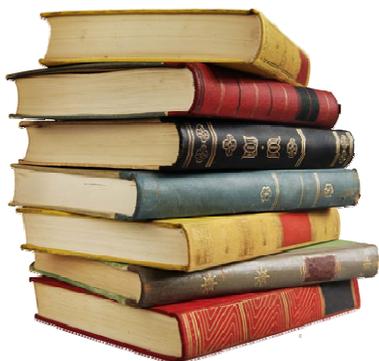
Director of Religious Education Startup

A big thank you to Marguerite Mills, Director of Religious Education from First UU Nashville, for leading the startup for the Religious Education program here at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists! About twenty folks attended the two day event to talk about the history of WUU, past volunteer dedication and victories in Religious Education as well as where we would like to go in the future. We discussed how the expansion will move us forward as a congregation, and what advantages age appropriate Religious Education classrooms hold for our children and youth (and adults, too!). We are all looking forward to having age appropriate classrooms available to all, a playground that is both earth friendly and fun, and a warm and welcoming space for everybody. Thank you to the board and all those who came to listen, to offer their wisdom, and to discuss the exciting future of Religious Education here at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists! This startup helped us set up the program, voice intentions and generally begin wall - all part of our covenantal relationship as Unitarian Universalists.

What's next?

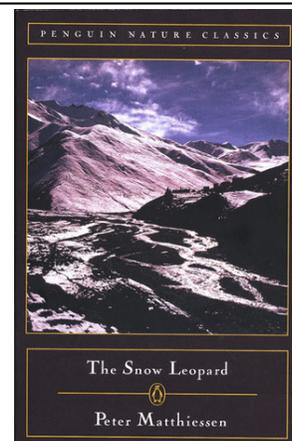
We're in process of forming a Religious Education Council. Contact Austen Petersen at austen@wuu.org for more information.

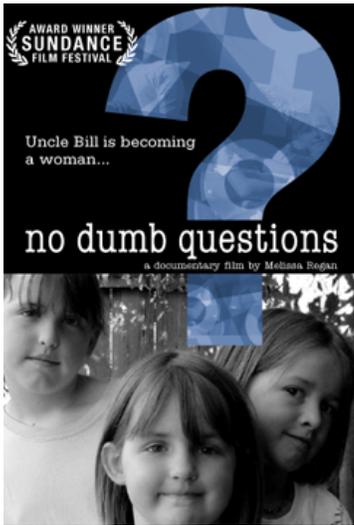
We're also talking about space usage. Please feel free to contact Austen Petersen for more information about this, as well.



Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group

This is a reminder that our next meeting will be on November 19th and we will discuss "The Snow Leopard" by Peter Matthiessen.





Social Justice Friday Potluck and Film

Join us in the Sanctuary on Friday 11/14 at 6pm for a potluck and a short positive film, “No Dumb Questions,” where a man who is transitioning to a woman has an open discussion with his family about what he is going through.



Potluck

Community of Faith Mission (COFM) Homeless Shelter



WUU will again be hosting the winter shelter. Our dates are Feb. 15-22. We will begin sign ups for volunteers in January.

We have had the benefit of the experience of our current key leaders for two years, but we invite others with a passion for the work to begin learning the tasks required to operate the shelter. At this time we are looking for **co-chairs** for these key leader positions:

- Volunteer sign ups
- Over-night shift
- Registration and check-in
- Over-all chair
- AM Check Out

Please contact Helen Hansen helenfoxhansen@gmail.com if you would like more information regarding these important volunteer opportunities.

WUU Social Justice – Choose Compassionate Consumption

Did you know that most tipped restaurant workers earn \$2.13 an hour and that non-tipped workers earn \$7.25? These amounts have not changed in over 20 years. Restaurant workers do not get any paid sick days and work while sick, which puts customers at risk. There are a higher number of sexual harassment cases among restaurant workers than any other industry and there is racial discrimination in the level of jobs held by workers.

WUU Social Justice Committee will be looking at ways our congregation can help in the efforts to bring change to these issues. If you are interested in helping, contact Melinda Morgan at minda5411@yahoo.com.

Transgender Day of Remembrance



Thursday, November 20

**Candle Light Service 7:00pm at Williamsburg
Unitarian Universalist**

3051 Ironbound Rd.

Williamsburg, VA

"In memory of those murdered in acts of anti-transgender violence."



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 220-6830

www.wuu.org office@wuu.org

Jennifer Ryu, Minister
Lola Warren, President
newsletter@wuu.org

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.)



November Birthdays

November Anniversaries

David Hamilton and Linda Lane-Hamilton
Phyllis and Jack Hostetter
Don Moore and Natalie Miller-Moore
Joelle Griffin-Russell and Penn Russell
Steve and Lynn Savoie

David Benson
Livia Berning
Autumn Elim-Durden
Sean Elim-Durden
Robert Field
Cindy Frezek
Jim Hall
David Hopkinson
Pat Hoppe
Sally Kellen

Chris Llewellyn
Joan Lucera
Kaya O'Brien-James
Roger Romero
Penn Russell
Lynn Savoie
Megan Tschannen-Moran
Lola Warren
John Whitley
Pat Winter