

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



Mark Your Calendar

6.4

Navigators Monthly Meeting

6.7

Congregational Meeting

Annual Picnic

6.11

The Odyssey

6.14

Wi\$dom Path Part 2

Parents as Spiritual Teachers

6.17

Pathfinders Book Group

6.19

Potluck Honoring Rev. Jennifer

6.28

Rainbow Potluck

Benediction

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

They say that each time we say good-bye is like a little death--a small rehearsal for the final good-bye. Maybe that's why staying fully present in my last weeks with you has been so hard, and why it's also been one of the most important experiences of my life.

I'm feeling a bit vulnerable and tender, like a hermit crab that has moved out of her old shell, but hasn't found a new home yet. All kinds of things make me cry these days--the final episode of "Mad Men", Tracy Chapman on the car radio, sitting on the S-bench in the memorial garden and reading the heart-filled emails you've been sending me...writing this article.

In just a few weeks, you and I will say goodbye and I will deliver my final benediction. Thinking a little more deeply, it occurs to me that the entire June 21st service will be a Benediction. My colleague, Susan Manker-Seale once wrote that "Much of ministry is a benediction." This word comes from the Latin; bene="well" and diction="to speak".

We have ministered together. We have spoken well of each another and of the creation and its great gifts. We have spoken well of shared values, of high aspirations and visions and goals. Speaking well of the things we cherish bestows blessings upon one another; I can think of no better way to say goodbye.

I Love You!

Jennifer



June Worship Schedule

June 7, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"Coming of Age and Bridging Ceremony"

This annual All-Ages service features the five middle-schoolers who have completed this year's Coming of Age class. We are also honoring one graduating high school senior.

Today is also New Member Sunday where we formally welcome all those who signed the book this year.

June 14, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"A Pagan, a Buddhist, and a Liberal Christian Walk Into a Church..."

That church would most likely be a Unitarian Universalist congregation. As our nation continues to grow more ethnically diverse, it is also becoming more religiously diverse. Even though fewer people are joining traditional Christian churches, many still seek spiritual communities in order to experience personal transformation and to engage in meaningful service to the greater good.

June 21, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

All-Ages Flower Communion

"Fare Thee Well"

In her final sermon, Rev. Jennifer says goodbye to the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, recalling the past nine years of ministry to this wonderful congregation.

We will celebrate Flower Communion today, so please bring 1 flower to add to our collective bouquet as a symbol of the diversity and beauty of our community.

June 28, 2015

10:00 am

Led by Worship Associates

"Animal Blessings"

Our spiritual connections with the animal kingdom is explored today. In honoring our 7th principle, we consider the more highly evolved senses of animals such as musical communication, problem solving, communication via scent, and others against the traditionally held hierarchy of man as the superior being on earth. An animal blessing ceremony will be performed as part of today's service.



Share the Plate Sunday, June 7



The entire plate collection on Sunday, June 7, will be donated to Housing Partnerships, a locally-funded non-profit agency that provides vital housing repair services to low-income, sick or disabled individuals and families in the Historic Triangle. A number of WUUs have volunteered many hours of labor to make our neighbors' homes more livable, but there is an ongoing need for these services to keep people "safe, warm, and dry." Please be generous!

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

Board Notes:

MAY might have been topsy-turvy weather-wise, but WUU was on a steady course. What a lot we accomplished as a Board and as a Congregation:

- **The congregation approved the Board's recommendation that the building plan go forth** with actual construction to begin late this summer. A small group, realizing that the Little Sanctuary could not be built because of financial constraints, came forth with the funds to keep it in the plan. Their donations were beyond the Capital Campaign; thanks go to each person who was able to ensure that the Little Sanctuary will be built.
- **The Board and the Rev. Dr. David Johnson as our Interim Minister** agreed wholeheartedly that he will serve WUU for two years as our Interim Minister, beginning August 1st.
- **Two out-going members of the Board spearheaded the plans for a congregation party** to send Jennifer off with good food, song and perhaps even dance! Thank you, Donna Stanford and Wayne Moyer.
- **The new Board spent a day in retreat**, reviewing all the accomplishments of WUU during the past year, seeing how they fit with the Vision 2017 goals, and setting their own course for this year. (The Board's year runs from May 1 through April 30.)
- **The Board said a special farewell to Jennifer as she attended her last WUU Board meeting.**



Now we look to JUNE:

- **Between June 3rd and the 9th, Rev. Johnson** (Dave, as he prefers to be called) will be in Williamsburg to find housing for his wife, Diann, and himself, sign a contract with the Board, and meet and greet WUUs as he has time. On Sunday, June 7th, he will attend our service and the congregational meeting, plus the picnic. Be sure to be at all three to say hello.
- **June 7, 11:15: The final congregational meeting of the 2014-15 fiscal year.** During this one-hour period, Jennifer will give her final "State of the Ministries" presentation, the Treasurer will present the 2015-16 budget, and I will share the highlights of WUU's 2014-15 year from the Board's perspective.
- **Seven people will attend UUA General Assembly as WUU delegates:** From the Board: Larry Ventis and Michael Coirin. From the Congregation: Cheryl Coirin, Les Solomon, and Evan Varney, who is our first ever Youth Delegate. From the Staff: the Rev. Jennifer Ryu and DRE Austen Petersen.
- **The Design Build Team** will continue to work on the fine details of construction with the architects and the general contractor and to receive bids.
- **Financially, we hope all members will have turned in their pledges;** the result will provide WUU with the ability to accomplish all our plans as we carry our mission forward.
- **AND WE SEND OUR MINISTER, JENNIFER, OFF TO HER NEW PURSUITS WITH OUR BLESSINGS AND GOOD WISHES.**

Be looking in the Spiral, on the Web and in the Orders of Service to learn more throughout the month.

Faithfully yours, Lola Warren



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 Wi\$dom Path Part 2: Money, Spirit, and Life

Facilitated by Peter Mellette and Martha Elim

Date: June 14, 2015
Time: 11:30 pm-1:30 pm
Location: WUU Sanctuary
Who Should Attend: Teens-Adults

Light Lunch Provided

Childcare can be provided if requested at least one week in advance.

Join us for the second of our series entitled The Wi\$dom Path. This Unitarian Universalist Association created program will guide us as we explore how money affects our spiritual values and our ability to live lives of meaning and purpose. The workshop is designed to help open the way for money to become more useful to each of us as a practical, life-giving tool.



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 Fred L. Adair



A native Arkansan, I was born in 1923 and grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. I attended schools there prior to going in the service in 1942. During the war I served in the Marine Corps and was discharged in 1945 after which I was married, attended college, and worked in the small town of Washington, N.C.,

managing a hardware store. My wife and I produced 4 children, two girls and two boys.

I returned to college in 1963, where I received a doctorate; I served as an assistant registrar at Duke University, and served on the staff of Franklin & Marshall College. I also taught at the School of Education at the College of William & Mary for 22 years, retiring in 1993. Upon retirement my activities centered around the congregation of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists. I served two terms on the church board, one as a board member and the other as president of the board. I had the privilege, while being board president, of signing the contract of our esteemed minister, Jennifer Ryu.

I have also served on several church committees including WALT, which has been a really great service to our community.

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





Stewardship is More than Money – Workshops, Canvass Results and Calls

True stewardship recognizes that we are owners of the WUU community and that we all have a say in its mission and vision. Our involvement as both donors and as recipients of services is unique and worthy of celebration. Our motivation to see the WUU community grow and serve our needs and those of others is our gift to each other.

Over the next two weeks you will also have the opportunity to sign up for the second stewardship workshop on our relationship with money and how it connects us to the world around us. So, through your participation, you can learn about the role of money as a class barrier and as a tool of social justice when we get together after the Sunday service on June 14th. Prior attendance at February's workshop is not required. More information is available in the Spiral and in the narthex following upcoming Sunday services.

So what is going on with the canvass for the annual budget beginning July 1? As of May 28, 2015, our annual canvass is at \$303,430, or at 92% of our goal of the \$331,000 needed to fully fund next year's budget. While 191 households gave to WUU last year, we have only received 169 pledges so far.

Some people may intend to pledge but may be putting off their pledge for a variety of reasons – if you are one of the 20 or more households who have yet to respond, please do so. Your pledge is important and will help us meet the spiritual needs of you and your family. Remember that only members with a current year pledge can vote on matters before the Congregation. At the Congregational Meeting on June 7, you will hear the results of the canvass.

As always, let one of the Stewardship Committee know if you have any thoughts, questions or concerns. If you don't call us, we may be calling over the next couple of months to check in with you.

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee (Dave Banks, Nancy Carnegie, Martha Elim, Peter Mellette, Ben Puckett, Trena Tankersley)

Hampton Roads Pride



On June 27, 2015, WUU will collaborate with UU's from the Peninsula and Norfolk congregations in welcoming attendees at Hampton Roads Pride to learn about and attend our services and to feel welcome in joining our churches. This is part of our Welcoming Congregation ministry.

Hampton Roads Pride is an annual event at Town Point Park in Norfolk, attended by several thousand people. The hours are noon to 7 PM.

WUU's are urged to attend the event, which is a joyous occasion featuring music & other entertainment, food & other concessions, informational displays, and lots of mingling. Please consider signing up to staff our table for an hour or more, and enjoy the event on your own before and after that.

If interested in signing up, please contact Fred Gilbertson, WUU LGBTQ Chair, lgbtq@wuu.org

Endowment Fund

June - 'tis the season for celebrations: graduations, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and other momentous occasions. Why not remember someone with a special gift to the WUU Endowment Fund?

Take advantage of the monthly list of fellow WUUs with upcoming birthdays and anniversaries at the very end of each newsletter. Gift forms are in the Endowment Fund box outside the library for anyone wishing to honor someone or some occasion.

What – more money? Why now, you ask? While we are all excited about the Building Our Future project that will soon result in a new wing of our WUU home, the Endowment Fund exists to sustain WUU into the future for generations to come. To date, the Endowment Fund, responsibly managed as part of the UU Common Endowment Fund, totals more than \$206,000, and our board policy is to allow it to grow to \$1,000,000 before drawing from its investment income.

The Endowment Committee encourages cash donations to celebrate events, mark important occasions, honor friends and family, or remember deceased members. It's so easy – and we thank each donor and let each recipient know when someone has honored her or him with a gift. Every small gift helps.

We also encourage WUU members and friends to name the Fund as a beneficiary of a *future* bequest or other planned gift from your estate – no money up front. So far in 2015, the Fund has been notified of two such estate gifts.

Want to know more? Contact a friendly Endowment Committee member:

Linda Foster, Ruth Fraser, Phoebe Kent, Paul Luchsinger, Richard Thek. We'd love to talk to you!



Notes on Volunteering (Williamsburg Faith in Action) by Dave Warren



**FAITH
IN ACTION**
Williamsburg, Virginia

I've been driving for Williamsburg Area Faith in Action, 2-4 times a month for about ten years. I've convinced myself that's enough -- for a while -- until guilt sets in. To alleviate that guilt, I am urging WUU members and friends to take my place -- and then some. More volunteers are always needed. Try to imagine temporarily or permanently being unable to drive -- to shop, to make medical/dental appointments, to do banking, to get to a respite care program. How many times can you impose on friends -- if you have such friends/family available? How much can your budget afford for taxi fares -- especially if you're on very limited income? Destinations are mostly local, but some are to Richmond or Newport News -- the choice of the volunteer.

Transportation isn't the only service of WAFIA -- sitting with a home-bound person while their care-taker does all the above chores, doing those chores for them, helping with some house/grounds-keeping needs, almost any need you can imagine. Volunteers decide what and when and how often they help out.

Aside from helping, I've met some great people and heard some interesting stories.

For more information, call Williamsburg Area Faith In Action, 757-258-5890 or call me 757 220-3853 -- or speak to me at WUU.-- Dave Warren

Unitarian Universalism and Harry Potter?



Our goal is to create a safe, fun, and welcoming atmosphere for all while using the container of the Harry Potter camp to explore Unitarian Universalist sources and principles. Some lessons explore one source or principle more in depth, while others encompass many, such as the Defense Against the Dark Arts lesson (August 23rd), which encourages participants to consider how we can all help discourage bullying and become good allies. We have some fun magic tricks up our sleeves for these lessons, but we cannot do this without *you!* We need you to register your child so we can plan properly (supplies etc.), and we need families to sign up to help volunteer for crowd control while our guest star professors work their magic! We have a class for the younger Hogwarts attendants as well as a class for rising second graders and above. We'll sort the children the first day using the Sorting Hat! **Mark your calendars, register by June 15 (Look for registration forms in the Narthex or click [here](#) to register online), and gather your favorite wizarding**

supplies for this summer's Harry Potter Camp!

How it is that Unitarian Universalism and Harry Potter connect?

In each of the Hogwarts classes we help the participants explore their questions about the world and how they can make their own unique, positive choices, facing the darkness that confronts them. Participants are given tools to explore possibilities rather than answers.

Unitarian Universalism embraces six sources of religious teachings:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

What are these "Principles?"

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

("UUA Principles and Purposes")



Did you see?

- Thanks to **Ruth Hopkinson, Michael Coirin, Jim Henion, and Les Solomon** for cleaning out the sanctuary attics! We took two full truck loads to Jolly Pond to recycle and one full load was made available to the Yard Sale team. As you see, we really had a lot of fun and thought a lot about WUU history. Where did that stuffed Halloween costume come from?
- Thanks to **Dave Neiman** for his help on plumbing repair.
- Thanks to **John Hinkley, Jonathan Wiese, Dave Neiman, and Les Solomon** for marking the outline of the Phase 1 expansion south of the Sanctuary.
- Try out the newly designed labyrinth. Previously, persons had to pass each other on the same path; now there is a separate entrance and exit. One can still see the old path as the new path begins to emerge.

2015
Virginia
**Women's
Equality
Summit**



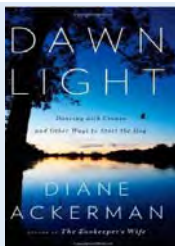
Bringing together advocates and activists from across the Commonwealth to discuss policies and strategies to advance economic security for women and families.

Featuring:

- Panel discussions with state and national policy experts
- Opportunity to learn from and connect with activists from across the state
- Appearances from Virginia elected officials

Saturday, June 20th
9am-4:30pm
Richmond Convention Center
Reception to follow at the Liberty Bar in the Marriott hotel
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/wecsummit>

Brought to you by the Virginia Women's Equality Coalition
Hosted by the Center for American Progress Action Fund



The Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group

The next book being discussed is Dawn Light by Diane Ackerman .

Join us on June 17 at noon in Fahs House, all are welcome!



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 Lola Warren, President
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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.)



June Birthdays

June Anniversaries

Don and Tina Allen
 Bev and Roger Baldwin
 Nancy and Fred Coy
 Bobbi and Joe Fisler
 Ruth and David Hopkinson
 Lee and Paula Hougren
 Liz and Roy Snyder
 Trenna and Charles Tankersley
 Dave and Lola Warren
 Susan and John Whitley

Bev Baldwin
 Raga Elim
 Bobbi Fisler
 Jodi Fisler
 Ainsley Ford
 Nan Hart
 Jack Hostetter
 Andrew Luchs
 Ethan Luchs
 Evelyn McKenney
 Kirby Moore

John Nichols
 Kaden O'Brien-James
 Peter Parker (Office Cat)
 Ana Romero
 Connor Stephens
 Dan Tabor
 Trenna Tankersley
 Ann Tetrault
 Dave Wilcox
 Jacqui Winther
 Daniel Wachter