

# WUU news

## Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg



### Some Dates of Note

**12.6**

Million Woman March  
Interest Meeting

**12.9**

Yule Sing

**12.11**

Café Conversation-GWOM

**12.18**

Café Conversation-MSC

**12.21**

Book Discussion Group

**12.24**

Christmas Eve Service

**12.25**

Merry Christmas

**12.26**

Office Closed

### December Worship Schedule

**December 4, 2016**

**9:45 am & 11:15 am**

**Longing for a Savior**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

The Jewish celebrations of Hanukkah, and Christian celebrations of Advent, remind us that humanity often yearns for deliverance from oppression and for new life. Pacific Islanders believe that a great ship will arrive to transport the tribe into heaven. Muslims await the return of the revered Mahdi to herald the final days. Buddhists believe that Maitreya will deliver all beings from ignorance. Native Americans believe that the White Buffalo will signal a restoration of ancestral lands. For whom might Unitarian Universalists be longing – if anyone? How might we recognize such a person or condition? In the aftermath of the contentious 2016 elections, I'll offer reflections on messianic hopes, the Marx brothers' quip about sanity clauses, and the ministerial search process at WUU – now moving into high gear

**Our Membership book is open for signing on the first Sunday of each month. If you have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2 or are transferring from another UU Congregation, please come forward at the end of the service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU.**

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**December 11, 2016**

**9:45 am & 11:15 am**

**When the Tofu Hits the Turnstile**

**(Or: The Trials of Job and Ludwig: "Why Me?")**

**Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister**

A tragedy strikes without warning -- shaking us to the core. Amidst confusion, rage, or desolation those who suffer loss seek answers: "Why?"; "What now shall I do?". We'll re-visit the trials of Job (from the Hebrew Bible) and Ludwig (van Beethoven), and their relevance for us today. Special choral and piano music will honor Beethoven's birthday (born December 16, 1770).

**Continued on next page**

## December Worship Schedule

### December 11 continued:

Our share-the-plate special collection will benefit **Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission.**

This is the Sunday when we recognize new members who have recently joined our congregation. We will introduce these new members at the 11:15 service

The Social Justice team and GWOM invite you to stay after the 11:15 service for a café conversation to answer questions and talk about GWOM volunteer opportunities.

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### December 18, 2016

**9:45 am & 11:15 am**

**"You Were Expecting Someone Special?"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

The word "mystery" has two distinct meanings. The familiar meaning of mystery is that it's a puzzle, or a problem to solve by careful observation, interpretation, and ingenuity. A mystery, in this sense, is a barrier to be overcome. An alternative interpretation is that mystery is the realm of uncertainty, doubt, and ambiguity in which we live. A mystery – in this sense – fosters deeper curiosity, the framing of different questions, and openness to amazement. Christmas is this second sort of mystery. We'll consider the down-to-earth ordinariness of the Christmas message

The Ministerial Search Committee invites you to join us for a Cafe Conversation following the 11:15 service on December 18th. Hear about the completion of our Congregational Record and Profile Book as well as next steps. We look forward to answering your questions!

### December 24, 2016

**9:00 pm-One Service Only**

**Christmas Eve**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Join us on for WUU's traditional Christmas Eve celebration -- with special vocal and instrumental music, readings, legends from many lands, carols, and candles. There will be no nursery or child care, but children are warmly invited. As in previous years, the collection will be dedicated to the Minister's Charitable Giving Fund to support special needs of individuals or local charitable organizations.

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### December 25, 2016

**11:15 am-One Service Only**

**Christmas Day**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

We will gather in the Sanctuary for a brief period of readings and personal sharing of Joys and Sorrows. Then we will car-pool to visit in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities with WUU members and friends who are living alone. Stacy Bolling and Eva Burke are arranging and coordinating these visits.

### January 1, 2017

**11:15 am-One Service Only**

**New Year's Day**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Q&A dialogue with your interim minister





## COFM Emergency Shelter Volunteers needed

WUU has committed to assist Life Church with the COFM homeless shelter next week, Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday December 7.

I know this is a busy time for all of us, but we really need volunteers for all shifts:

- Check in 5-9 PM
- Overnight 9 pm -1 am
- Overnight 1am -5am
- Check out 5am-8am

Please contact Stacey [Felipe Stacey.felipe@gmail.com](mailto:Felipe Stacey.felipe@gmail.com) 757-342-6031 or

Helen Hansen [helenfoxhansen@gmail.com](mailto:helenfoxhansen@gmail.com) 757-608-8822 or 757-645-3331

Thanks for assisting with this worthwhile social justice opportunity.

## COFM Shelter Food and Servers Needed

There are still a couple of people we need for meals—please see if you can do these tasks and send an email to [sichair@wuu.org](mailto:sichair@wuu.org). Thanks, Jessica O'Brien

### **Tuesday, December 6**

PM - Cookies or brownies - one to two dozen to be delivered to Life Church kitchen between 5-6:30pm

### **Wednesday, December 7**

AM - Breakfast server - one person to arrive at 5:15am and stay to about 7am

PM - one large bowl of mashed potatoes delivered warm to the Life Church kitchen between 5 and 6pm

- Two servers to help with dinner - 5:30-8:30

### **Thursday, December 8**

AM - Breakfast servers - two people to arrive at 5:15am and stay to about 7am

### **Million Woman March Interest Meeting Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, Fahs House**

Are you interested in going to the Million Woman March this coming January? Would you like to help support those going on the march? If you answered yes to either question, this meeting is for you!

On January 21, 2017 we will unite in Washington, DC for the Women's March on Washington. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country. Questions, contact Austen Petersen at [austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org).

## Board Report

Once again, with so many campus changes, one might think that the Board's work is on hold. **Not so!**

At our November meeting, we:

- Reviewed the **By-Laws** committee's recommended changes. We will schedule a café conversation in early January to review these changes before the Congregational Meeting in late January. We are indebted to Roger Baldwin, Roy Snyder, and Dave Stanford for their thoughtful work on this committee.
- Adopted a revised draft **Settled Minister's Letter of Agreement** so it is in compliance with UUA requirements. Thanks to Jim Kent and Peter Mellette as they worked with our UUA representative, Denise Remes, on these changes.
- Adopted the recommendations from the **Naming Task Force**, headed by Roger Baldwin. Now, we will select members to a Gift Acceptance Committee to guide us in naming rooms, projects, etc. to honor and memorialize persons and/or values. This new policy also includes the possibility that new opportunities will be made available for persons who missed out on designated gifting during our Capital Campaign, as well as for other big projects.
- Approved new budget requests, drafted by Building Our Future teams and approved by the Finance Committee, to help us complete our building program:
  - **Dedication:** The Dedication team is preparing for our big day on February 5. We approved \$2,000 to help make this a memorable event.
  - **Furniture and Playground:** Special teams have requested partial funding from the McGiffert Gift. Each request was for \$10,000. That leaves about \$80,000 in the McGiffert account.
- Discussed the Alternative Income Sources (AIS) report that we are close on an agreement to rent Fahs to be a new **Quaker Meeting House**. It provides for exclusive access for the Quakers on Sundays and joint access during the rest of the week. Additionally, AIS continues to prepare Parker House to provide transitional housing for homeless families, sponsored by the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. These are unique and exciting opportunities for WUU to have a larger presence in the Williamsburg community. Thank you Michael Coirin and the AIS team.
- Approved a new **Personnel Committee Charter**. This document, as well as the other charters, provides guidance on the work and scope of our committees and task forces.



We ended our meeting with an assessment of all that is going on around the campus. Thank you for your *understanding and adaptability* during these transitions and for your willingness to *patiently* Build our Future. It does take time; however, we are almost there!

Les Solomon  
Chair, WUU Board

## Share the Plate



# GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION

A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless

The Share The Plate Recipient for December 11 will be newest Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM) project, Grace Haven Family Shelter, which will be in the newly renovated Parker House.

The Grace Haven Family Shelter will house one or two small families for 30 -90 days while Kim Barbarji, the Grace Haven Family Shelter Director assesses the family's needs and works with local agencies to find permanent housing. As soon as one family is housed, another one will be accepted for services.

GWOM's budget has increased from \$20,000.00 yearly to \$80,000.00 yearly to support Grace Haven Family Shelter. This gigantic leap of faith was taken after much thought and deliberation because we think it is a necessary service for our homeless neighbors with children. We are counting on WUU and all of our 22 faith groups, community partners, and friends to help finance Grace Haven Family Shelter, and know you can make it happen! Visit <http://www.gwoutreachmission.org/> for more information.

PS Please note that all checks intended for the Share the Plate recipient should be made payable to "WUU," with the agency name or "STP" on the memo line. However, if you miss STP Sunday – or forget your checkbook – you can send your check to the WUU office during the following week, or drop it in the plate the following Sunday. Thank you for your generous support.

### FISH

(our local community's food & clothing pantry)



FISH continues to ask for BEEF stew (it seems people really like beef and they don't get much of that) and holiday foods: mashed potatoes, gravy, cornbread stuffing, broth, green beans, yams, cranberries. thank you!



Please make sure packages are sealed and all "use by" dates are current. Thank you all!



In Memoriam: Rollene Sumner Wells  
(December 21, 1927 - November 28, 2016)

With deep sadness we must announce that our beloved friend Rollene Wells, long-time friend and companion of Wayne Moyer, passed away at her home in Richmond on Monday afternoon November 28th. Rollene and Wayne's long-time friendship was affirmed in a hand-fasting ceremony one year ago, in Rollene's home. Rollene's daughter Rev. Barbara Wells officiated; other UU ministers shared in the joyous celebration (including Rev. Dave Johnson, Rev. Jeanne Pupke, Rev. Jaco ten Hove, and Rev. Dave Weissbard).

Memorial service arrangements for Rollene are pending, and will be announced at a later date.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister



### Search Committee Update

The Ministerial Search Committee invites you to join us for a Cafe Conversation following the 11:15 service on December 18th. Hear about the completion of our Congregational Record and Profile Book as well as next steps. We look forward to answering your questions!

You can follow our search progress with this calendar:

- ✓ Early 2016 Settlement Rep visits
- ✓ April Search Committee selected
- ✓ June Search Committee retreat
- ✓ June – Aug Planning
- ✓ Aug – Sept Congregational survey distributed & tabulated\*
- ✓ Sep - Oct Cottage meetings\*
- ✓ Oct Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop\*
- ✓ Nov 30 Congregational packet finalized
- Jan – Feb 2017 Packet exchange
- March Pre-candidating at neutral pulpits
- March 30 Offer given to candidate
- April Candidating Week
- April Congregational Vote\*

\* Congregation involvement



**YULE SING**  
 AT WILLIAMSBURG  
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
 AT 6:00 PM  
 ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH, 2016

JOIN IN THE FUN ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH!  
 COME ONE, COME ALL READY TO SING, FEAST, AND BE  
 MERRY.

**YULE SING!!! FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 at 6:00 p.m.**

Come one, come all to the annual All-Ages Yule Sing, when we enjoy dinner and caroling in the Sanctuary. We'll sing along with music provided by our own Dave Robbins while we make ornaments and decorate the Christmas tree. There will be some special activities offered for the littlest ones among us. Owing to the building renovation, we have no kitchen or kitchen equipment or even running water in the sanctuary, so instead of "potluck," dinner will be provided this year. We will offer a variety of sandwiches, raw veggies, chips and cookies, in other words, "finger foods!" If you would like to bring cookies to share, please contact DRE Austen Petersen: [austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org) or call 757-220-6830



Don't forget—please bring some new socks or underwear for FISH to place under the tree. Come, join us for this festive event, which has been celebrated every December since 1990!



**Pathfinders Book Group**

The group chooses a book that explores the author's spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and we use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 21, at noon in Parker House. We will be discussing The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje. Come and join us—and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

# BRIEF HISTORY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Written by Cindy Leitner

With edits by Austen Petersen



Unitarian Universalism once was a part of the Christian religious tradition. But in the third century some people in Europe who studied the Bible very carefully came to feel that some of what other Christians were saying wasn't true. One group of these new scholars felt that Christians were wrong if they thought that God would punish people and send them to Hell when they died. These scholars became pretty unpopular. They were known as "Universalists" because they believed that God was kind and would offer salvation universally (to all), not just to a chosen few.

In the fourth century, the Christian church adopted the doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" declared that Jesus was of the same substance as God. Some people rejected this idea and became known as anti-trinitarians, or "unitarians." These scholars saw Jesus as a prophet and great teacher, but not necessarily as the son of God.

For a long time Unitarians and Universalists thought that they were just an improved form of Christianity. But as the centuries passed, they realized that there were other religions in the world [from which we can draw wisdom]. These people felt that they could learn from all religions and people the world over. Since so many religions disagreed with each other about very important things, they began to understand that no one religion could claim to have all the right answers about life and how to live it.

In 1568, King John Sigismund of Transylvania (now Romania) issued the western world's first edict of religious freedom, which meant that people could choose their own religion. Francis David then formed the world's first Unitarian congregation in that country.

John Murray brought Universalism to North America from England. The first Universalist church in America was formed in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1779. At about the same time, scientist Joseph Priestley brought Unitarianism to North America. The first Unitarian church was established in Philadelphia in 1796, and it expanded to New England congregational churches.

The American Unitarians and Universalists realized that they shared a philosophy of religious tolerance and religious questioning and a concern for causes of social justice, so they decided to merge together into one association. In 1961, the Unitarian Universalist Association was born.

Unitarian Universalists do not have a creed like many other religions do. They are encouraged to question and explore what is not known to them—such as what God is and what happens after we die. No one tells us the answers. In our congregations we are encouraged to seek and develop our own truth within a community of fellow seekers.

If someone asks about our religion, the easiest thing to say is that Unitarian Universalism is the democratic faith. It believes in freedom, tolerance, and helping other people. It believes that no one really knows all the right answers to the important questions in the universe and so it tries to build on those things that people can agree on—like trying to make the world a better place.

*Save The Date!*

LET US CELEBRATE!

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

**SERVICE OF DEDICATION**

Sunday, February 5, 2017

4:00 pm

Sanctuary

Guest Speaker: The Reverend Jennifer Ryu

Special Music: The WUU Choir directed by Dr. Jamie Bartlett

Special Greetings from UUA Guests:

Moderator - Jim Key

Vice-Moderator - Denise Rimes

Capital Campaign Consultant - Bill Clontz



**Megan Blank and Jesse Rohrer**



Megan Blank and Jesse Rohrer each grew up in Mennonite households, Jesse in Harrisonburg, VA and Megan in Souderton, PA. They were introduced at Goshen College, when Megan was dating one of Jesse's (still) best friends. A hot June day, eight years later, they married on his parents' land overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. In 2013, they moved to Williamsburg after Jesse was hired by Riverside Radiation Oncology as a radiation therapist. Megan works as an office assistant for an HVAC company in Newport News, and previously volunteered at the James City County Library. When they're not kayaking or playing rounds of Settlers, they are spoiling their tabby cat, Maude, with toys and tuna cans. They began attending WUU shortly after their move, and Megan quickly joined the choir. Jesse and Megan are grateful for the community they have found, and are excited about becoming more involved with WUU.

## WUU and the Peninsula Agency on Aging:

### Working together to make the holidays cheerful for local senior citizens!



The Peninsula Agency on Aging is a local non-profit that provides resources to senior citizens who have decided to “age in place”. Some of our services include: case management, transportation, personal care and providing extensive information about resources in our area. We work hard to help our clients live safely and happily at home and in our community.

This year, we hope to connect our most economically disadvantaged seniors with members of the WUU congregation who might be able to provide a small gift for the holiday. If you would like to participate, please choose an ornament from the “tree” starting next week (November 28). **Please make sure to return your wrapped gift and the ornament you selected by December 17.** Gifts will be delivered during the week of December 17.

Rest assured, PAA’s clients are always grateful for even the smallest kindness shown to them. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUAL KINDNESS AND COMPASSION!**



## Save the Date-Annual Day for All People!

The annual **Day for All People** will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 25**, at the State Capitol, the office building for the General Assembly and Centenary United Methodist Church in Richmond. Participants can see the Commonwealth’s Senate and House of Delegates in action, hear from experts in important areas of legislative action, and meet like-minded supporters of the work that the Virginia Interfaith Center does when the General Assembly is in session.

Tickets for the Day for All People will be \$30 for the day-long event, with breakfast and lunch included, with an “early bird” \$5 discount if you register by Jan. 11, and \$15 for students.

**Registration for the Day for All People** is available at: <https://virginiainterfaithcenter.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?id=3&reset=1>



More information regarding carpooling will be available in the January newsletter.



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

[revdaj@aol.com](mailto:revdaj@aol.com)

Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

**Office Hours**

The WUU office is open:

- ◆ 8am-1pm Monday - Friday

Rev. Dave Johnson has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday -Thursday

Austen Petersen, Director of RE, has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday - Thursday.

Sometimes these times change due to meetings, vacation, etc.  
Feel free to call first (757) 220-6830 to check our availability.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@wuu.org).)



**December Birthdays**

**December Anniversaries**

Dave and Donna Stanford  
Ken Schmidt and Sara Lewis

Don Allen	Rob Piland
Jamie Bartlett	Doug Randolph
Natalie Chamberlain	Gerta Smith
Alina Citta Wolverton-	Bob Tschannen-Moran
Diggs	Lisa Williams
Larry Dorsett	Marion Wolfe
Christian Felipe	
Marty Limber	
Grace McArdle	