

# WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



2017

## Some Dates of Note

2.2

Navigators Meeting

2.4

Adopt A Highway Clean-up

2.5

Building Dedication

2.12

Stewardship Kick-Off

2.19

Coming of Age

**2.20-Office Closed-  
Presidents Day**

2.24

Family Potluck

2.28

Board Meeting

## Interim Minister's Letter: "Blessings on the Road Ahead"

On Sunday February 05 our congregation celebrates two major milestones: **Charter Sunday** (marking our twenty-eighth anniversary as a UU congregation) and the **Dedication Ceremony** for our New Building. Distinguished guests from the UUA will be with us to join in the celebrations. The labors of so many hearts, hands, and minds – together with your financial generosity – have insured that the voices of our free faith tradition will be secure in the Tidewater area – for many generations to come.

In anticipation of that day, my thoughts turn toward the choral anthem by Elizabeth Alexander entitled "The People Build a Home" – which our choir will sing at the dedication service. The refrain of this anthem is a blessing, a prayer. The congregation will be invited to sing along with the refrain – with these words:

*"May all who enter trust this place so surely,  
That they dare to share the fires deep  
That burst into anger as well as the waters that swell into laughter,  
Sharing their wounded tears as well as their soaring song.*

*And may these rafters hear the voices of the children,  
Just as clearly as the voices of the orators grand.  
The hum of computers and the sweep of the broom  
Can form a chorus just as holy as the shout of a million stars."*

The road ahead will be a time of experimenting and adapting. It will involve a creative synthesis of order and spontaneity – as we walk the roads together. Even as the new building is being completed and occupied in stages, in this same spirit we will announce and try out initiatives that take full advantage of these wondrous new facilities. Our Space Mapping and Allocation Team (see January newsletter, page 13) will be the focal point of this period of experimentation for the next several months. Please thank these five dedicated folks (Dave Neiman, Michael Coirin, Sally Fisk, Austen Petersen, Ellyn Stephens) for serving us so generously in helping to realize the possibilities that are now ours.

All good wishes to you and yours in the New Year.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister (2015-2017)

## February Worship Schedule

### February 5, 2017

**11:15 am One Service Only**

**Charter Sunday; Building Dedication Sunday**

**Message: "A Flag on the Play"**

**Guest Speaker: Jim Key, Moderator, UUA**

Jim will share a personal crisis and its aftermath for lessons on how to face today's challenges.



Jim Key was elected Moderator at the June 2013 General Assembly to a single, six-year term. As Moderator, Jim chairs the UUA Board of Trustees, facilitates the business sessions at General Assembly, and serves as chief governance officer. He consults regularly with leaders and administrative committees at the national, regional, district and congregational levels. Jim has served our faith from the ground up – helping to start a new congregation in Beaufort, SC serving as its president for five years, Vice President then President of the Thomas Jefferson/Southeast District. He facilitated the organizing meeting for the Southern Region of the UUA, and served on several committees at the UUA that included chairing the UUA Audit Committee. Jim is married to Liz Key. They have three children with partners from various ethnicities and six grandchildren.

#### **Service of Dedication**

**4:00 pm, Sunday, February 5, 2017**

**Speaker: Reverend Jennifer Ryu**

**Choral Anthem by the WUU Choir**

#### **Honored Guests:**

**Jim Key, UUA Moderator & Chief Governance Officer**

**Denise Rimes, UUA Vice Moderator & Ministerial**

**Settlement Representative**

**Bill Clontz, UUA Capital Campaign Consultant**

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### February 12, 2017

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

**"Are You Fit to be Tied?"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Valentine's Day too often becomes sappy and sentimentalized. Love's landscapes, however, are convoluted – and often heartbreaking. We'll explore the roller-coaster allures, disappointments, and challenges

of love. Long after the chocolates have melted, and long after the flowers have wilted, what endures? Special music by the WUU choir: Jamie Bartlett, music director.

This Sunday launches our annual Stewardship campaign for the 2017-2018 program year / fiscal year.

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### February 19, 2017

**9:45 am**

**"Woman's March"**

Come to the 9:45 AM service to learn more about this community's involvement with the Women's March on Washington, D.C. on January 21st, 2017.

**11:15 am**

**"Coming of Age"**

**Led by YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)**

Come support the youth involved in Coming of Age at the 11:15 AM service to hear credo statements. This service, and the entire Coming of Age program, owes thanks to Bruce, Gwen, Seth, and Sue for guiding the students in their journey towards youth in this congregation.

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### February 26, 2017

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

**"Promises, Promises: The Middle Domain"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

All human actions (noted Judge Lord John Fletcher Moulton) fall within three domains. One is the domain of laws, requiring compliance. At the other extreme is the domain of free choice. In between, Lord Moulton identified a domain which he called "obedience to the unenforceable." This is the domain constituted by agreements, promises, understandings, civility, and respect. In short: Right Relations. This domain is sometimes problematical for Unitarian Universalists. However, our capacity to function within this middle domain is a key indicator of the agility, resilience, and adaptive capacity in every relationship -- and in every human system. We'll explore some of the implications of Lord Moulton's model for our ongoing work of fostering Right Relations—and covenanting together—in our congregation.



## From the Board

This month, the Board took the following actions:

- At the May Congregational Meeting, the congregation will act on a recommendation from Attorney Peter Mellette to ensure that the Trustees have authority to approve rental agreements. *With increasing opportunities for revenue generation, we have discovered that we need to firm up our procedures.*
- Authorized the Build Our Future team to draw up to \$35,000 in additional money from the McGiffert fund to complete various construction projects. *That will leave about \$50,000 in the McGiffert building fund. We are so grateful for the McGiffert gift to complete our building project.*
- Enacted a webcasting policy that states: "Audio streaming is for the sole purpose of providing off-site participation in the congregation's primary weekly service." *During the last month, we discovered that we didn't have a policy to address what we distribute by webcasting. We may address other aspects of webcasting a bit later.*
- Authorized the president to sign the UUA/UUSC **Declaration of Conscience** on behalf of our organization committing to put UU values into action to resist hate, fear and bigotry. *We will work with the Program Council to implement ways to involve and promote this important step. This Declaration is the first collaborative project by the UUA and the UU Social Council (UUSC) to promote UU values. Individuals and congregations can sign this Declaration.*
- Began a discussion of ways that the Board can engage families to better understand their concerns.
- Approved Kerry Mellette as a new member of the Board's Personnel Committee.

More than 90 voting members attended the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29. This meeting has two primary purposes:

- **Elect new officers.** Congratulations and thanks to:
  - Board**--Jim Kent (second term), Susan Fournier, and Jessica O'Brien;
  - Nominations**--Susan Walkley;
  - Endowment**--Greg Caldwell and Linda Foster;
  - Committee on Right Relations**--Helen Hansen; and
  - Trustees**--Larry Ventis.
- **Adopt revisions to the By-laws.** All of their final recommendations from the By-laws Committee and the Board were approved.

And now we prepare for the Dedication on February 5. I look forward to greeting you as you enter into our new Gathering Hall. It will be a day of celebration—both at the morning and at the 4:00 services.

Les Solomon  
Board, President



# “THE NECESSITY OF VIRTUE”

**Adult Enrichment Series: Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists  
Eight Sundays, February 26 through April 16; 12:45-2:00 pm, Room 105**

*Rev. Dave Johnson, facilitator*

Registration required (contact Ellyn in office); class limit is 14

*Resource: Presentations at UUA General Assembly by the Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich,  
Senior Minister, All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City*

**Purpose:** Unitarian Universalists are often described as believing in salvation by character, rather than by grace or by faith. In other words, we believe in *virtue*: the personal spiritual discipline of becoming the kind of individuals we ought to become, so that we might live as human beings ought to live. This series aims to examine our capacity to strive for moral excellence. What is your ethical basis for deciding what to do and how to live? Might this question be relevant now -- as we come to terms with the outcomes of the 2016 election?

## **Outline of Dates and Topics:**

### **Session 1, Sunday February 26: The Key to Happiness**

A knife fulfills its distinctive potential by being sharp; an apple tree, by bearing apples. As human beings we have the ability to think and reason. Using these faculties to decide how to live enables us to achieve the state of character known as virtue – the key to happiness.

### **Session 2, Sunday March 05: Wisdom**

Curiosity is a personal spiritual discipline that expands the range of our knowledge and the depth of our experience. If we keep our wits about us, we'll develop the deep insights and accrue the broad experience that counts for wisdom. Then, when we need to decide which of the paths before us leads to virtue, we'll have the wisdom to know the difference.

### **Session 3, Sunday March 12: Courage**

Courage is the ability to see evil close at hand and take steps to confront it—despite present danger. Courage is also the ability afar off and take a step toward it – despite obvious risks. To know courage is to know a calling that is greater than fear. There is a cadence to courage: A steady march toward achieving what is good and confronting what is not.

### **Session 4, Sunday March 19: Compassion**

Compassion is the outward expression of an inner awareness – of our own vulnerability. People who lack compassion naively believe that they are invincible, and will never need the support of others. For this reason, compassion is a leading indicator of moral strength. Ultimately compassion champions the kind of world we want to inhabit – a world where no one suffers needlessly.

### **Session 5, Sunday March 26: Justice**

Justice is a process we follow in our political life to ensure that all of us are maximally free to pursue whatever goals we choose in life. Justice is also a purpose: a set of goals we pursue in our religious life to ensure that all of us fulfill our potential. What is the purpose of justice? To create a world of beauty – of proportion, balance, and equality: a world that is just.

### **Session 6, Sunday April 02: Temperance**

Aristotle defined virtue as a balancing – between excess, and absence. Such a balance between self-indulgence and self-denial is temperance, which does not mean abstinence, but moderation. Temperance is the virtue that says yes, but not too much. A life of virtue is a discipline that requires courage and commitment. The payoff is transformative: true pleasure and true freedom.

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## Membership Book Signing

Our Membership book will be open for signing on February 5th. If you have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2, or are transferring from another UU Congregation, we welcome you to come forward at the end of the 11:15 service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU.

### Class Continued

#### Session 7, Sunday April 09: Transcendence

Transcendence is our experience of being deeply connected to the natural world, and to all that is our life. Transcendence enables us to go beyond the limited confines of our daily lives and to see the reality of the world and our place in it. The hallmarks of transcendence are *humility* (recognition of our utter dependence) and *gratitude* (recognition of our obligation in return) – and the defining element of our faith.

#### Session 8, Sunday April 16: Hope

Virtue calls us to be lighthearted about present troubles and optimistic about future possibilities. In religious terms, hope arises from faith: a leap of the moral imagination that connects the world as it is to the world as it might become. (Peter Steinke said: “Hope is Faith – on tiptoes.”) To escape the clutches of the present, we need a sense of humor. To imagine the contours of the future, we need faith. And to work our way from the present toward the future, we need optimism. Hope springs from humor about the present, faith in the future, and optimism: the power to do the work.

#### Address Update:

Glen Morgan's new address is:  
1900 Ravine Road, Apt 112  
Williamsport, PA. 17701

### Share the Plate



The Share the Plate collection for Sunday, **February 12**, will be donated to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Since 1986, they have provided over 18 million meals to residents throughout their service - the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and Williamsburg, and the counties of Gloucester, James City, Mathews, Surry and York. In order to sustain the ever-growing need, the Foodbank collaborates with almost 170 partner agencies - faith based groups, food pantries, soup kitchens, children's and adult homes/shelters, and other community centers that people turn to in times of need. For more information on the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, visit [www.hrfoodbank.org](http://www.hrfoodbank.org).

To nominate a Share the Plate program recipient agency, email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org).



## February 12 Congregational Information Meeting

Please attend a short meeting after Sunday services Feb. 12 to hear about this year's pledge drive. Either pick up your pledging information that morning, or watch for it in the mail during that week. Deadline for pledges will be the last Sunday in March.

Watch for Stewardship Team members in the Gathering Hall during February and March to answer questions, help you with the process, or provide you with materials if you need them.

We encourage online pledging at <http://wuu.org/annual-pledge-campaign> (or go to the WUU web site and click on "Giving.")

Stewardship Co-Chairs are Allen Cooke, Linda Lane-Hamilton; Dave Banks, Nancy Carnegie, Martha Elim, Helen Hansen, Michael Luchs, Ben Puckett, Trenna Tankersley, members. Nan Hart, board; Rev. Dave Johnson.

## February is Pledge Month

WUU's annual pledge drive kicks off Sunday, Feb 12. Stay after either service for information about how you can pledge this year.

This year, all WUUs and friends will be canvassed by mail with a contact person on the Stewardship Team who can answer questions. You can pick up your pledging information on Feb. 12, information which includes a pamphlet about new project initiatives, information about average pledging, and our increased budget of \$318,000-\$330,000.

With the end of our building expansion and capital campaign payouts, WUU has exciting new plans and, of course, increased expenses related to our new spaces. We also have additional rental income from both Fahs and Parker.

Some of our newer members met in stewardship sharing circles in January, both to talk about their relationship to WUU and to learn about the pledging process. Our most generous donors have been asked to be our "pacesetter" pledgers for the advance campaign. Results of this advance campaign will be announced on Feb. 12.

Once again, our goal is 100 percent pledging by our WUU members and friends. We encourage online giving.



**MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**Kim Barbarji**

Kim Barbarji has been a long-time member of the WUU community. She met her husband, Mohamad Barbarji, at ODU as an undergraduate and they later married at the Unitarian Church of Norfolk. They remember visiting WUU, after moving up to this area, attending a service that included a reading from the Bible, a reading from the Koran, and a song sung by the choir in Hebrew and knowing, on the spot, that this was a place they would be welcomed as an intercultural/interfaith family.

Kim and Mohamad are the parents of three wonderful sons, Zachary - 14, Tre'von - 16, and Haidar (you know him as Hamed) - 18 years old. Zach and Tre attend Lafayette High School and Hamed is studying Trumpet Performance at VCU. Mohamad is in his 24<sup>th</sup> year of teaching Technology Education at West Point High School, having earned state-wide and even national recognition as a leader in his field.

Kim has lived and worked in the greater Williamsburg area for the past 23 years, having served in roles such as the International Student Advisor at William & Mary (where she also earned her M.Ed.), Southeast Regional Coordinator for Cultural Homestay International, Deputy Director for Avalon, and Eastern Region Ambassador for NewFound Families, the state adoptive, foster, and kinship family association. She is excited about her new directorship with Grace Haven Family Shelter and her continued work in supporting and uplifting at-risk families.

## **GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION**

**A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless**



Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission's newest project, Grace Haven Family Shelter at Parker House, is hoping to host our first family in late February or early March.

Under the directorship of Kim Barbarji, families will be housed for 30-90 days while they are being assessed for needed services and permanent housing is found.

The GWOM board would like to thank Les Solomon, Jim Hall, and Dave Neiman for their dedicated service to the Parker House renovation and to Williamsburg Housing Partnership for building the side porch. We look forward to partnering with WUU, other faith groups, and community partners to assist families in need from homelessness to self-sufficiency.





# Ministerial Search Committee

## Search Committee Update

Your Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work. We've submitted our Congregational Record and Congregational Profile to the UUA's Transitions Office. These documents are filled with information about our congregation, some of it provided by congregants via the survey and cottage meetings. The process works like this: congregations such as ours notify the UUA Transitions Office that they are in search and they submit their Congregational Records. The Transitions Office sends copies of these Records to ministers in search. Ministers review Congregational Records & decide which congregations interest them. The UUA then sends Ministerial Records of specific candidates to specific congregations. We were pleased to receive a number of outstanding Ministerial Records. After reviewing these, we agreed to exchange profiles with several of those ministers: our Congregational Profile in exchange for their Ministerial Profiles. After reviewing profiles, we narrowed our selection and conducted Skype interviews. We've completed these interviews and we are selecting some ministers to pre-candidate with us. Now is an exciting time: we have a select group of ministers scheduled, and we can't wait to learn even more about them! We appreciate the words of encouragement from assorted congregants, and we trust you will be pleased with the final candidate who you will be asked to affirm as our next settled minister in April. 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



## Coming of Age



Coming of Age is a Unitarian Universalist program which affirms the growth of independent thought and self-identity. Children at the cusp of adopting a new identity, that of youth, are invited to participate in a program called Coming of Age. Participants explore theology, spirituality, history and other topics through discussion, drama, music, writing and art.

On **Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>**, there will be two services.

Come to the **9:45 AM service** to learn more about this community's involvement with the Women's March on Washington, D.C. on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Come support the youth involved in Coming of Age at the **11:15 AM service** to hear credo statements. This service, and the entire Coming of Age program, owes thanks to **Bruce, Gwen, Seth, and Sue** for guiding the students in their journey towards youth in this congregation.



The Williamsburg Learning Tree Spring Semester is gearing up! Classes will run from March 1 (or even earlier in some cases) through at least mid-June. Think about teaching a class through this WUU-sponsored program that reflects your interest, your passion, or your knowledge. By sharing this little bit of yourself, you are providing a valuable community service (and even getting a little \$\$\$ for your effort).

We have had special requests for a women's carpentry class (e.g., fixing stuff around the house), upholstery sewing, and belly dancing. I am hoping for some academically-oriented classes, too, so those of you who are teachers, college professors, or just academically inclined, please consider helping out.

Visit the website – [www.WilliamsburgLearningTree.org](http://www.WilliamsburgLearningTree.org) – or just give me a call at 757-220-9975. And please hurry! People are already wanting to sign up! Thanks everyone! Suzanne Huddleston, Director, Williamsburg Learning Tree



## FISH

**(our local community's food & clothing pantry)**

The red wagon is back! Bring donations of canned and boxed goods to fill it up for those in need in our area. Soups and stews are great for this cold weather!

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

Thank you all!



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

**Office Hours**

The WUU office is open:

- ◆ 8am-2pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 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).)



**February Birthdays**

**February Anniversaries**

Jane and John Nichols

Lisa Williams and Beth Pepper

Roger Baldwin

Mary Buchanan

Priscilla Caldwell

Nancy Carnegie

Vicki Hall

Debbie Haynes

Ruth Hopkinson

Phoebe Kent

Sara Lewis

Daniele Longo

Jessica O'Brien

Tom Payne

Jo Solomon

Ellyn Stephens

Jacques vanMontfrans

Carolyn Wilson

Bob Winther

Richard Wolfe