

# WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



2017

## Some Dates of Note

5.4

Navigators Meeting

5.6

Celebration of Life

Ernie Kilgore

5.23

Board Meeting

5.26

YRUU Movie Day

## Interim Minister's Letter: "On Taking Time Seriously"

Our Easter celebrations began with a milestone event for WUU: Our first-ever **EASTER BREAKFAST** – served from our brand-new kitchen, with Kathy and Jim Willis as our talented and gracious chefs / hosts. With the good fortune of splendid spring weather, we set up tables and chairs on the new patio between the Sanctuary and the Little Chapel. The cuisine was truly delightful. And the spirit of WUU's renowned hospitality was manifest for all to experience – including our many guests. Now that we are creatively adapting to multiple uses of our new spaces, let us continue to keep our welcoming spirit in the forefront of every gathering – both on-site and off-site. Word is spreading: WUU is for gathering, and transforming, the entire community. Thanks to all for your enthusiastic participation in Easter's pacesetting events for all ages. From breakfast, to worship, and the Easter Egg hunt. Great work, friends! ! Special thanks to Kathy and Jim, and to the cadres of volunteers assisting with set-up, serving, and clean-up.

Beginning in May we will follow the tradition of previous years, and shift into a different rhythm on Sundays. Our pattern has been to have two worship services during the program year, and one worship service on Sundays between May-Day and Labor Day. That tradition will continue this year, as we return to ONE SERVICE (at 10:00 am) beginning on Sunday May 07th. Such intentional pacing through the church year is a wise way to seek balance. Familiar seasonal cycles (e.g., seed-time, growing-time, and harvest-time) have been pace-setters of many cultures and civilizations. It is well that we also pay attention to the rhythms of congregational life. After your settled minister arrives, you can anticipate further experimenting with program initiatives. Interest-groups will emerge and re-align toward new opportunities. Regardless of how WUU's calendar of events may unfold in the months and years ahead, please pay attention to the question: How healthy is our **BALANCING?**: (1) Between pragmatism and vision? (2) Between leadership and management? (3) Between action space and balcony space? (4) Between self-care and service to the world? (5) Between tasks and relationships (= **FUN!!!**)? Asking this question is a continuing process of re-balancing. It deserves thoughtful attentiveness along the way.

Joseph Campbell offers a paradox: He says that true maturity is reached not by scrambling and going for the gusto, but by "downward mobility". By becoming, once again, like a little child. Campbell writes:

*"It is the gift of immaturity itself, which has enabled us to retain in our best, most human moments the capacity for play. It is only those who have failed to preserve this gift in their womanhood or manhood, who become our penny-dreadfuls, our gorillas and baboons."*

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## May Worship Schedule

**May 7, 2017**

**10:00 am**

**"Beltane/May Day Celebration"**

**Organized by Anne Stevens, Worship Associate**

Join us to celebrate the rites of spring highlighting traditions based in nature and the earth's reawakening for the spring planting. For this all ages celebration, we will gather first inside. As we proceed outside, Dave Robbins will lead a percussive group of drummers and shakers. Outside, we will join together for readings, songs, making music, and dancing around the May Pole.

Chairs will be provided but bring blankets, drums or other percussive instruments, dancing clothes, and your love of spring and community.

Our Membership book is open for signing on May 7th. 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 service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU.

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**May 14, 2017**

**10:00 am**

**"The Biology of Hope"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Dr. Jerome Groopman of Harvard Medical School writes:

"Patients are awash in a sea of statements about the link between their emotions and their maladies. For years I diverted or dismissed their inquiries because I did not know how to answer. Now my response is formed by the lessons taught to me by my patients and the stirrings of serious science. We are just beginning to appreciate hope's reach and have not defined its limits. I see hope as the very heart of healing. For those who have hope, it may help some to live longer, and it will help all to live better."

Amidst loss and suffering is there any place for Hope? Is hope merely a panacea, a delusional distraction? What insights does contemporary biomedicine offer about the "biology of hope"?

**May 21, 2017**

**10:00 am**

**"Running Through the Thistles"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Among the "necessary losses" that appear during a minister / congregation relationship, the most challenging is the departure of a minister. Regardless of the reasons for the departure, it is essential that these closures and rites of passage be done intentionally, and in a spirit of celebration. I'll reflect on the challenges of "running through the thistles" – using the metaphor from Roy Oswald's book of this same title.

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**May 28, 2017**

**10:00 am**

**"What's Worth Living and Dying For?"**

**Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister**

Shortly after the end of World War II, General Omar N. Bradley wrote: "Humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescents. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience."

On Memorial Day weekend we'll reflect on the sacrifices that our predecessors were called upon to make: Sometimes willingly, and sometimes not. Sometimes for causes representing the best of the human spirit, and sometimes not. How shall we decide what is worth defending – no matter the cost? What shall we do with "our one wild and precious life"?



*Williamsburg  
Learning Tree*

Come see our new classes! Yoga, Beginning Japanese, and more! Visit [www.WilliamsburgLearningTree.org](http://www.WilliamsburgLearningTree.org) – to browse or register. Do you prefer a paper catalog, or do you want to register over the phone? No problem – just let me know. Call me at 757-220-9975 or email me at [Suzanne@WilliamsburgLearningTree.org](mailto:Suzanne@WilliamsburgLearningTree.org).

## Minister's Letter Continued

When the world ruled by seriousness alone, it will grow old, faded, rigid, lifeless. The grave world is indeed the world of the grave. But the world in the realms of celebration grows young again. It is a world that is watched over not, like the Garden of Eden, by some angel of judgment with a flaming sword. But it is a world embraced by high priests of comedy, and lasagna-gulping cats. It is a world which invites all to enter who will lay down their rifles and their rattles, their poses and their posturing, their masks and their trumpeting. It is a world which lies beyond seriousness. It is on that more primitive and original level where the child, the animal, and the wise seer belong. It is the region of dream, enchantment, ecsta-sy, laughter.

Are you grown up, and sophisticated? Are you becoming adept at multi-tasking: pumping away on an exer-cycle while listening to your iPod, staring at the news on a screen in front of you, chatting on your cell-phone, and munching handfuls of bean sprouts?

Have you gotten your act together: clenched-fisted, tight-jawed and determined? Are you locked into an identity, an image, an act, for all time? Are you once and for all a feminist or a populist or a humanist or a liberal or a Baptist or, dare I say it, a Unitarian Universalist? Are you completely together, all wrapped up, with no frayed edges and no loose threads dangling?

I hope not. Don't stop growing. Don't put away your heritage, and all of your childish things. Keep your spirits young, and playful, and unfinished.

All good wishes in these fascinating times.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister (thru June 2017)



The WUU ministerial search is now in round two. For this abbreviated process, we have received a smaller pool of applicants than the first round, including many new individuals. Over the next few months we will carefully consider each of these wonderful people to see if they might be the exceptional minister that would be a good match for WUU.

If we don't find our new minister in this second round, we will enter another year of search with the same basic schedule we followed this year. We are heartened to remember that the extra year during our last search resulted in WUU calling Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Preston!

WUU's Congregational Profile that was created for the search process is now available publicly on the WUU website! Just follow this link: <http://wuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/WUU-Packet-2017.pdf>

Jane Reilly, Rachel Delbos, Fred Gilbertson, Debra Hill, John Hochella, Charles Tankersley, and David Wilcox

## Transitions at the April Board Meeting

April is the month for Board transitions. At the Congregational Meeting in February, you elected Susan Fourier and Jessica O'Brien as new members replacing Lola Warren and Dave Neiman. Thanks to our Nominations Committee for nominating such excellent new Board members and for twisting Jim Kent's arm to return for a second term!

So with the new team in place, we began the process of re-organization for the next year. The elected officers will be:

- President: Les Solomon
- Vice President: Franz Gross
- Secretary: Susan Fourier

Additionally, Jim Kent agreed to return as Finance Chair. With these elections, we believe that we have provided essential continuity through our process to find a settled minister. Just in case we are not successful in selecting a settled minister in round 2, the Board nominated Les (Chair) and Pat Hoppe to manage our Interim Minister selection process. We will be looking to Jim's expertise in the event that we must activate this process. In the interim, we appreciate so much the dedication and professional work of our Ministerial Search Committee. It took renewed bursts of energy to begin round 2 of the search process.

Other business included:

- The Personnel Committee recommended that the Board approve in concept two part-time staff position descriptions: Facilities Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Approved.
- The Board authorized the Personnel Committee to begin a search for the Facilities Manager. With the increased use of our new facilities and the rental income that these we anticipate, this is a critical position and it will reduce the stress on our current staff and volunteers.
- The budget drafted by the Finance Committee was approved with one amendment: The part time Volunteer Coordinator position was added at a cost of \$3,400. This position will not be filled until the new fiscal year.

Lola Warren and Dave Neiman also begin important transitions as they rotate off the Board. Both have provided such dedicated leadership as they served in president, governance committee, Building our Future committee positions. Their leadership would not have been possible with the support of their families.

Finally, some transitions are more enduring. Jo and I are celebrating the life and death of two close family friends. That has required two quick trips to Kansas and one to the Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank you, Franz, for stepping in as acting President during these travels.

Les Solomon  
WUU Board President



## Share the Plate



On Sunday, May 14, our Share the Plate Program will donate the plate collection to a new recipient: The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood.

The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood (VLPP) provided high quality basic health care to more than 22,000 Virginians in the past year at five centers. 18,000 of those patients were served at the Richmond, Hampton and Virginia Beach clinics. This March, VLPP recorded 3,300 patient visits - the highest monthly total ever.

. Basic health services are many and include such care as annual exams, HIV testing and referral, birth control information, men's health care, abortion referral and services, youth sexuality education, STD testing and treatment, and HPV vaccine (cervical cancer vaccine)..

The nearest VLPP health centers are at 403 Yale Drive, Hampton, Va. 23666 p. 757-826-2079 and at 201 N. Hamilton Street, Richmond, VA 23221 p. 804-355-4358.

For more information, please contact <http://www.vlpp.org>

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



**SAVE THE DATE - May 7, 2017**

**38th Annual Life Membership Awards Banquet  
"NAACP: We've Come Too Far...No Turning Back"**

Mark your calendars and purchase tickets for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Life Membership Banquet on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. The evening begins with a silent auction at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 5:30 p.m. This event is the NAACP's major fundraiser to support their civil rights advocacy work and community outreach efforts in health and education, to provide scholarships to area youth, and to help facilitate developmental opportunities for middle and high school students through their youth work. As the NAACP representative says, "We've come too far, and we need your support to keep moving forward."

Tickets are \$65 per person, or \$95 to include a one year NAACP Membership. You can mail your check or call for a credit card payment: York-James City-Williamsburg NAACP, 479 McLaws Circle, Suite 3, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

# Religious Education at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists SUUmmer FUUn 2017

The final day of regular Religious Education programming in 2017 will be May 21<sup>st</sup>, when we will celebrate in music with Children's Chapel led by Dave Robbins. There is no Religious Education May 28 through 2 July in order to give our volunteers a well-earned rest.



## When

We are hosting SUUmmer FUUn from July 9 through August 27. Nursery care for infants to age three is available all Sundays during the second service in the nursery, which is located near the McGiffert wing doorway.

## Who

Children ages 4-17

## What

Summer Fun is an opportunity for kids (and adults, too) to get creative! Each Sunday during the summer, everybody (kids included!) begins in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM. The kids will get “sung out” of the service, and then walk over to rooms 110 & 108 for SUUmmer FUUn.

## Help

Would you like to offer your help? We need lead teachers to lead the themed sessions, and assistant teachers to assist the lead teachers.

### Lead Teachers

- Take the kids outside for brief “run around time” to burn off steam
- Gather the children for circle time and ask “how did you U.U. this week?”
- Lead the session

### Assistant Teachers

- Take attendance
- Grab any extra supplies needed
- Assist in helping make the day safe and fun for all

Educational Goal: We strive to create a safe, supportive, environmentally friendly, racially just, LGBTQ+ affirming atmosphere that is conducive to emotional, spiritual, and social growth.

## Sunday Dates

- July 9 Lego Day
- July 16 Science Day
- July 23 Food Day
- July 30 Dance Day
- August 6 Collaborative Art Day
- August 13 Chalk Art & Giant Bubbles Day
- August 20 Mosaic Makers Day
- August 27 Dale Chihuly Day

Contact Austen at [Austen@wuu.org](mailto:Austen@wuu.org) for more information.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Faith Casey

I was born near Hagerstown, MD, into a Mennonite family and community. We soon moved to a farm a few miles north of there just over the Mason and Dixon line into Pennsylvania. When I started school, I walked to a one-room school at the end of our farm lane. After a few years, we moved to another farm near Mercersburg, PA. When I was a high school freshman, our family moved to Harrisonburg, VA, so that we children could attend Eastern Mennonite High School and, possibly, college.

After completing a diploma nursing program in Harrisonburg, I moved with my new husband to his community in Denbigh which is now part of Newport News, VA. There our three children – Carmen, Amy, and David - were born. When they were grown, I moved to Annandale, VA, after having furthered my education at Christopher Newport and William and Mary. In Northern VA, I worked for various government contractors as a systems and financial analyst.

After retiring, I moved to Williamsburg in 2004 because my three children and their families live here. Along with spending time with my family, I enjoy time with friends, reading, walking and exercising, and taking advantage of the many musical, theatre, and educational events that Williamsburg offers.

I have been a Unitarian Universalist since joining the UU Fellowship of the Peninsula while living in Denbigh. In Northern VA I belonged to the UU Congregation of Fairfax and later the UU Church of Arlington. I joined WUU soon after coming here and have served on the Sunday Morning Team and the Membership Committee. I am so happy to be part of this loving, inclusive, and active community.

### **Musical Opportunities**

#### **Women's Choir sings May 12**

This is an opportunity for females of any age who like to sing. Music is available now and rehearsal will begin soon. For music and more information contact Vicki Hall [vickihallva@gmail.com](mailto:vickihallva@gmail.com).



### Hampton Roads PRIDEFest: volunteers needed

WUU's are invited to attend this annual festival at Town Point Park. The date is [June 17](#), the time is [from 10 AM to 6 PM](#). It will be attended by thousands, it will include performances by standout performers, this year to include The Village People. There are informational booths, a boat parade, colorful fashion statements by many, and a crowd spirit of, well, Pride!

Let's show our WUU spirit and have lots of us attending the festival.

More specifically, we need to work with the Norfolk and Peninsula congregations to staff a tent at which UU's will be sharing our welcoming nature, inviting festival attendees to come check out our congregations.

Please contact Fred Gilbertson [fredgilbertson@msn.com](mailto:fredgilbertson@msn.com) and get signed up to staff the tent for a portion of the day. The collaboration w/ our fellow UU's will be rewarding, and the festival will be loads of fun.

### A Golden Opportunity to Join our Community Outreach



The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. We, the WUU's, have committed to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothes closet each Tuesday during the month of May from 9:30 a.m.-3:00p.m. No special skills are required. 3 to 4 people (men and/or women) are needed each Tuesday in May. If you can help out only half a day, that can be arranged, too. In 2015, 1999 adults and 1365 children were served with a total of 9108 outfits. The need is great and continues to grow. Please consider helping out—the fellowship is terrific!

Please call or email Carol Sherman at 229-3344 or [cwsher@verizon.net](mailto:cwsher@verizon.net). Thanks in advance!

## Our new spaces are proving to be versatile!

During seven days in April, four big events were held at WUU, which made good use of the additional space and the new kitchen. The Sanctuary and Gathering Hall were transformed for Temple Beth El's Passover Seder, followed a few days later by a delightful Kenya Night. On Easter morning the Gathering Hall became a spacious serving hall, with pleasant eating areas in the courtyard and Little Sanctuary. The following day, the Church of God was able to hold a special service in the Sanctuary with meals served in the Gathering Hall.

A lot of physical labor is required to transform these areas for varied purposes. We appreciate our cleaning crew and the event planners for their care in both the set up and the take down of tables, chairs, etc.

To enable future groups to know how the Gathering Hall should be arranged after an event, a floor plan/ photos will soon be available. We ask that once an event is over, the Gathering Hall furnishings and signage, etc. be returned to their usual positions. Working together, we can keep the area attractive, informative and welcoming.

*The aesthetics team - Donna, Linda, Susan and Trenna*



## What is UUWomenspirit?

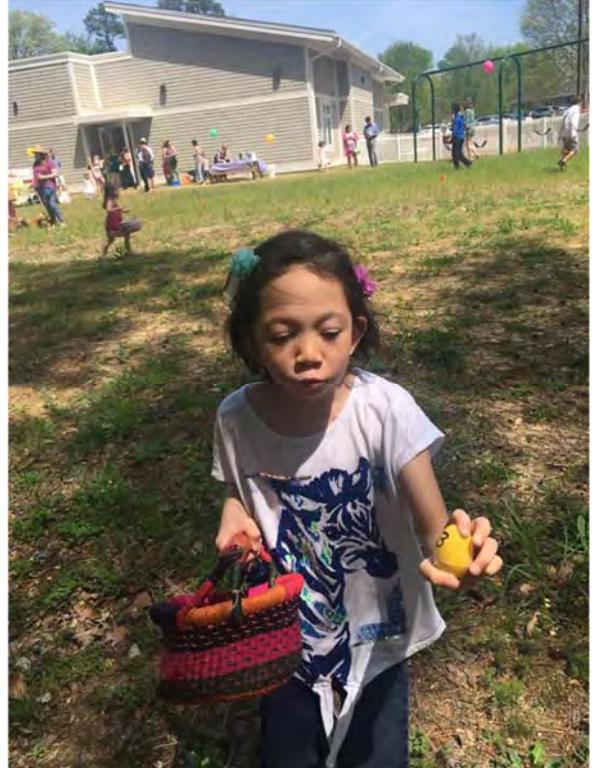
We recognize that all women have journeyed on varied paths to Spirit: earth-based, indigenous tribal, Christian, Hebrew, Wiccan, Buddhist, and more. We gather to honor the manifestation of the Feminine Divine within ourselves and each other. Emphasis is placed upon celebrating the four ages of Woman: the *Maiden*, the *Mother*, the *Warrior*, and the *Crone*. Each passage teaches us and those around us.

Womenspirit is open to all who identify as female, 18 and older from all walks of life.

Interested? Contact Katrina at [klandon1956@gmail.com](mailto:klandon1956@gmail.com).

Way to go, Tamra!

A big thank you goes out to Tamra Elim-Durden for making the Egg Hunt on Easter such a success! We even had a special guest star – Dora the Angora Bunny! Thank you Tamra and to everyone who helped make the afternoon so much fun in our new playground!



## Time for Celebration



It is time to celebrate! Eight students recently completed Elementary level Our Whole Lives program at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists.

Congratulations to all of the students, and thanks to our teachers: Camilla Buchanan and William and Mary Students who are now on their way to Kenya to offer this class to students at Olderkesi Primary School.

# Canoeing for High School Group



**Who:** UUFP, UU Norfolk, and Williamsburg UU high school groups and their advisors

**When:** Saturday June 24th at 12:00 noon

**Where:** Newport News City Park Campground  
Store Parking lot

**Bring:** Water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray and completed permission form



**Contact:** Joanne:  
jmdingus@verizon.net,  
Paul: ypc@ucnorfolk.org,  
or Austen: Austen@wuu.org



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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).)



**May Anniversaries**

- Maurice Bernier and William Morrison, Jr.
- Roger and Merry Guernsey
- Vicki and Jim Hall
- Kerry and Peter Mellette
- Ülkü Nouri and Grayson Williams
- Ben and Beth Puckett



**May Birthdays**

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Tina Allen             | Paula Hougen      |
| Jonathan Arries        | Vanessa Jones     |
| Stacy Bolling          | Lucile Kossodo    |
| Cheryl Coirin          | Alfred McKenney   |
| Pearl Cooprider        | Beth Puckett      |
| Nancy Coy              | Dave Stanford     |
| Fred Coy               | Donna Stanford    |
| Stacey Felipe          | Leighton Thumm    |
| Elizabeth Friedrichs   | Scott Varney      |
| Marjy Friedrichs       | Elizabeth Wilkins |
| Carolyn Greathouse     | Barb Worthen      |
| Joelle Griffin-Russell |                   |