

FALL/WINTER PROGRAM GUIDE



WUU Covenant

We, the members of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, promise to:

- respect ourselves and the inherent dignity of all human beings,
- support each other's search for truth,
- help each other grow in mind and spirit,
- teach ourselves and our children the value of religious thought and feeling,
- act responsibly toward the society in which we live,
- renew ourselves through shared educational, artistic and spiritual experiences,
- care for each other, and
- try to live morally and deepen our spiritual lives.

Back to Basics

This year we look forward to the start of a possible building expansion project. That vote will be on September 21st between the two service, with an informational meeting on 9/14. Whenever we plan for the future, it is wise to remember the principles and purposes to which we are called. And so, we take time this season to return to the basics of congregational life, our mission, and our faith.

The core of our life together as a religious community is the desire to grow in our spiritual capacities.

When we pursue this growth in small groups, worship or classes, we not only improve our own lives, but also the lives of others.

The core of WUU's mission is service—service to that which is larger than ourselves. It is a commitment to a life grounded in compassion.

The core of our faith is connection—especially to that which is sometimes the least visible—to the Holy, to the Spirit of Life, to the power of Love.

I hope you will take advantage of the programs offered this fall and winter. They will help you to make new connections, find ways to serve, and encourage your spiritual deepening.

May you heed the call of the cooler weather to slow down and sink into your soul.

Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Minister



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Mission

Our Mission is to SERVE:

We serve our members and friends by providing a welcoming, inclusive community to explore and encourage personal spiritual growth;

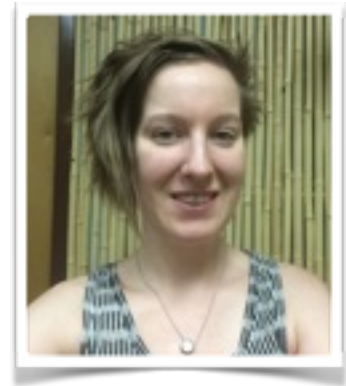
We serve Greater Williamsburg by promoting religious, racial and social harmony;

We serve Liberal Religion by embodying Unitarian Universalist values within our congregation and in society at large;

We serve the Global Community by participating in transformative action to achieve a sustainable and humane world.

Lifelong Learning, Exploring, and Growing

Hello! My name is Austen Petersen, and I serve WUU as the Director of Religious Education. The programs we offer encourage personal spiritual growth and exploration throughout the lifespan. We aim to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that provides meaningful and fun programs.



For more information, please see class descriptions below, or you can also contact me at austen@wuu.org.

Programming changes on a semester cycle, with the fall 2014 semester running from September 21, 2014 to February 8, 2015.

Faith Exploration for Children

Sunday morning programs for Pre-K thru 8th graders begin on Sunday, September 21, 2014. Every Sunday morning, the entire community will gather in the Sanctuary for the first 20-30 minutes of worship together. Occasionally, we will remain all together for an All-Ages worship service. Most of the time, however, they will depart for their own programs in Fahs or Parker Houses. Here are the programs they will be exploring this Fall:

Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2 - Fahs House: "Love Surrounds Us"

This program explores all the Principles in the context of Beloved Community of family/home, school, and neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.

Grades 3, 4, 5 - Fahs House: "Love Connects Us"

The "Love Connects Us" program celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.



Nursery

We offer a professionally led and coordinated nursery program to help keep the youngest children safe and engaged with age appropriate toys.

The nursery is located in the Sanctuary Building, and we limit this space to children under 4 years of age.

To make use of this free service, please sign your child in to the nursery indicating your contact information, your child's name, allergies and any pertinent information.

The nursery is open during **both** worship services from 9:00am until 12:30pm, starting **September 21**.

Elisabeth Berning is our Nursery Coordinator.

Middles (Grades 6, 7, 8)-Parker House: “Windows and Mirrors”

The metaphor of windows and mirrors represents the dynamic relationship among our awareness of self, our perceptions of others, and others' perceptions of us.

Windows and Mirrors nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. The sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters.

YRUU (High School Youth Group)-Sanctuary: “Virtue Ethics”

Sunday Afternoons @ 4pm

The “Young Religious Unitarian Universalists” meet on Sunday afternoon from 4pm to 5:30pm in the Sanctuary.

We make hundreds of decisions every day. Some are small. Some are life changing, although we may not know their significance when we make them. This program's premise—in the words of the Buddha, recited in every workshop opening—is that “our thoughts and actions become habits and our habits shape our character.” We have some control over our character. We can shape the person we want to be by making intentional, thoughtful decisions. YRUU has its own closed Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wuuyruu/>

“Coming of Age” For 7th, 8th & 9th Graders

Starting in January—more info to come!

Each year we alternate the Coming of Age and OWL (sexuality & spirituality) programs. This year, we are offering Coming of Age.

This is a program set apart from Sunday mornings where children at the cusp of adopting a new identity—that of youth—are invited to participate in this program. Participants explore theology, spirituality, history and other topics through discussion, drama, music, writing and art.

Tapestry of Faith

A Note About the Curriculum:

We will be using materials developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association called, "Tapestry of Faith."

"Embodying a faith development focus for our congregations, Tapestry of Faith is a series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love." *

*from the www.uua.org/tapestry website

Please let us know if there are particular Spiritual and Religious topics you would like to explore this year.

William & Mary UU Circle, Campus

Led by the WM students, with Austen Petersen serving as their advisor, the UU Circle meets regularly for spiritual development and worship.

Facebook Group: uucircle@groups.facebook.com

Website: <http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/unitarian/home>

Navigators USA Scouting Chapter #36

1st Thursdays, 6:30pm, Fahs House

Monthly Excursions at various locations

Sponsored by WUU, this co-ed, intentionally inclusive scouting group is open to all children. The chapter gathers for planning meetings, then participates in activities throughout the year.

Co-Leaders: Greg Caldwell and Dan Moore



Covenant Groups

Covenant groups are small groups of between 6 and 10 people that meet twice a month for 2 hours. Each group is led by a trained facilitator and use a common format that includes personal sharing and discussion of topics selected by the facilitator. We call them "Covenant Groups" to distinguish them from a social circle or discussion group.

Open to all, we request that you sign up for this offering. **Signups for covenant groups will take place in December 2014, and the groups will run from January to June.**

We already have groups for New UU's and Taoist Practice, but will add more based on time of day or identity groups, etc.

Facilitators will be recruited and trained starting in October. If you would like to know more about facilitating a covenant group this year, please contact Austen@wuu.org or jennifer@wuu.org.

Faith Exploration for Adults

New UU Orientation Classes

The New UU Orientation Class is for newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for members of the congregation to share with newcomers why they are Unitarian Universalists. These sessions give newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of the Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage.

New UU Orientation Class consists of two sessions to introduce newcomers to WUU's spiritual ministries, worship services, organizational structure, stewardship, and faith development programs for all ages. At the end of the class, there will be an opportunity to sign the membership book and formally join the congregation.

Please plan to attend both Part I & 2 of New UU Orientation:

Part 1: October 20, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Part 2: October 27, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Part 1: January 18, 2015 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Part 2: January 25, 2015 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Conversations on Race

2:00pm - 4:00pm, Sanctuary, led by the Mosaic Makers*

Working with the book by Paul Kivel, [Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice](#), we will address the many areas of privilege for white people and suggests ways for individuals and groups to challenge the structures of racism.

Gathering in the safety of the UU covenanted community, we will explore topics that you may never have considered. This program is open to everyone: people who have been engaged in anti-racism work for many years and also for those who have never examined these issues.

September 14, 2014: Intro and Part I, What Color is White?

September 28, 2014: Part I, continued, What Color is White?

October 12, 2014: Part II, The Dynamics of Racism

October 26: No Class-Racial Justice Conference, Durham, NC**



Six Sources of UU

The Living Tradition which we share draws from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an 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;

...continued on page 7

November 2: Part III, Being Allies

November 16: Part IV, The Effects of History

November 30: Part V, Fighting Institutional Racism

December 14: Part VI, Democratic, Antiracist Multiculturalism

*See description of Mosaic Makers in Social Justice section of this program guide.

**See more information about this Conference in the Social Justice section.

Ministry Teams

These teams of volunteers do the work of the congregation. They do everything from keeping the buildings and grounds clean to caring for the sick and organizing social justice action. Joining a team is the best way to get to know the congregation!

Membership Team

WUU's Membership Team supports WUU's mission to welcome all who come through our doors and are curious about the congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Our goal is to help integrate new members with seasoned members throughout the year, creating a stronger sense of community.

This year, the Membership Team, is led by Co-Leaders:

Carolyn Greathouse: carolyngreathouse@cox.net 757-903-4196

Catherine Laarhoven: catnye75@gmail.com 508-801-3734

Carolyn Wilson: c2wilson@cox.net, 404-805-1681

New UU Orientation Class

October 20 & 27; January 18 & 25 (see details in previous section)

This 2-day class introduces newcomers to WUU's spiritual ministries, worship services, organizational structure, stewardship, and faith development programs for all ages.

The Membership Book

This book is open on the first Sunday of each month for those who are ready to formally join the congregation as a member. You are invited to a member after completing both sessions of the New UU Orientation Class or by transferring membership from another UU Congregation.

Six Sources, continued

The Living Tradition which we share draws from many sources:

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.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Meet the Minister

2nd Sundays, 10:30am & 12:30pm, Library (room next to the Nursery)

Guests who are new to UU or WUU are invited to meet the Rev. Jennifer Ryu in a quiet setting to ask questions about Unitarian Universalism or the congregation.

This is also an excellent time for you to talk with Rev. Jennifer even if you are not a newcomer!

Meet the Minister dates this fall/winter:

- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14
- January 11
- February 8

Denominational Relations Team

This team provides connections between the WUU congregation and the UUA's Southeast District/Southern Region, the Tidewater Cluster (seven local congregations including Fredericksburg, White Stone, Glen Allen, Richmond, Williamsburg, Newport News and Norfolk), and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. This year the team will focus on three areas:

- Advocate and plan for WUUs to attend General Assembly (Portland, OR in late June, 2015)
- Identify and pursue needed training for our leadership/congregation
- Represent WUU on the Tidewater Cluster Steering Committee

Co-Leaders of this team: Michael & Cheryl Coirin
(michael1240@cox.net and cheryllucy62@gmail.com)

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry consists of the Minister, lay pastors, two co-chairs, and volunteers who serve the congregation by ensuring that every person feels they are cared for.

Lay Pastoral Care Associates

Working closely with the Minister, these members provide a "listening ministry" to the congregation.

When you are in need of someone who will be with you when you are troubled, anxious, afraid or confused, reach out to us.

We do not give advice or counseling. Rather, we will sit with you and listen and give you the chance to listen to the still small voice of wisdom or the divine within yourself.

This year's Lay pastoral Care Associates:

Pat Hoppe
(phoppesing@cox.net)

David Hopkinson
(davidhopkinson111@gmail.com)

Martha Elim (mwelim@cox.net)

Caring Team

This team provides care to members of WUU who are ill, disabled, elderly or shut-ins. This care includes phone calls, visits to home or hospital, cards, delivery of meals, and driving to doctor appointments. The condition and wishes of each person in need are kept in a notebook, where committee contacts and services are recorded. All information is kept strictly confidential. The notebook is kept by one volunteer for a two-week shift, during which he/she delivers and coordinates services to those on the list. After two weeks, the book is passed to another volunteer, who continues to coordinate care for those with ongoing needs, as well as new additions to the list.

Co-chairs meet once a month with the Minister. Three educational workshops for the full committee are planned for the coming year with input from community experts in healthcare and senior services. Dates to be announced.

If you or someone you know in the congregation needs help from the committee, contact caringchair@wuu.org or jennifer@wuu.org.

If you would like to join our team, please contact co-chairs Liz Snyder (Elizabeth3rd@cox.net) or Ellen Graham (elgraham@cox.net).



Save These Dates

Upcoming Special Events
and Worship Services:

September 21:
Congregational Vote on
moving ahead in Building
Our Future

September 21: Return to
Two Services Schedule—
9:15am & 11:15am

October 12: Installation
Service for Austen
Petersen—All Ages Worship

November 8:
Congregation-Wide Party
to celebrate the beginning
of the Capital Campaign

December 12: Yule Sing
Holiday Party

December 21: All Ages
Worship—Winter Solstice
Pageant

December 21: Night-time
Solstice Ritual

December 24: Night-time
Candlelight Christmas Eve
@ 9:00pm

Sunday Morning Teams

There are 5 (five) Teams that take turns helping to create a warm, friendly, and hospitable welcome on Sunday mornings. These teams make the coffee, help to set up the sanctuary, pass out Orders of Service. As Greeter and Ushers, these volunteers offer a positive “first impression” of the WUU congregation.

If you would like an easy way to get involved, join a Sunday Morning Team.

Team leader is Linda Tang. Contact her at lztang1@gmail.com

Audio Visual Team

This team primarily serves during the Sunday morning worship services. However, they also provide AV support during Weddings, Memorial Services, Congregational Meetings. No prior experience necessary—just a willingness to learn a fairly complex system of computers, video cameras, microphones, mixers, etc.

Team Leader is John Trindle. Contact him at john.trindle@gmail.com

Worship Associates

Take part in the Sunday services by leading worship. They also ensure that the Sanctuary maintains its sense of holiness and beauty.

Additionally, the worship associates help to plan various aspect of worship as well as lead entire services several times a year. *No prior experience or knowledge is required*, and training is offered on a regular basis. The Worship Team meets monthly to plan upcoming services.

Contact Rev. Jennifer if you would like to join the Worship Associates: jennifer@wuu.org

Music Program

WUU Choir

The 30-member choir sings twice monthly September through May at the 11:15 service and on special holidays. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Jamie Bartlett, Associate Director of Choirs at the College of William and Mary. It sings a wide variety of music from many traditions, ranging from renaissance and baroque choral music to contemporary anthems to African and American spirituals. The choir rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Contact Jamie by email: choir@wuu.org

Spiritual Themes

Since 2010, we have been using a 3-year cycle of spiritual themes—mostly in worship. These themes have also been used in Covenant Groups and Faith Development classes.

Each time we return to a theme, we are further along in our understanding, and therefore we approach that theme in new ways.

Here are the Spiritual Themes we will be exploring together this Fall & Winter:

September—Sabbath

October—Truth

November-Prayer

December-Miracle

January-Revelation

Look in the Sanctuary for a monthly "Spiritual Practices Guide" on each of these themes.

WUU Youth Choir: The Youth Choir is open to all children and youth. The choir rehearses as needed on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am and performs several times during the year.

Tabernacle Band: Tabernacle Band is a "no-fault" orchestra for all ages and instruments that has become a semi-annual tradition at WUU. So whether you are a musician who plays regularly or someone whose instrument hasn't seen the light of day for a while, a seasoned veteran or new to your instrument, we encourage you to come out and join the fun. For more information, contact Vicki Hall.

Tabernacle Choir: If you have always wanted to sing with the WUU adult choir but can't make the Wed. evening commitment, then we've got a choir for you. Once or twice each year, we invite all who like to sing to join us to learn a very easy piece which we'll sing at both worship services. For more information, contact Jamie Bartlett, choir@wuu.org.

Small Group Ministries

There are many ways to connect with WUU members and friends in meaningful ways for the sake of "intimacy and ultimacy." Here are groups where you can see and know others, and for you to be seen and known.

The Odyssey Group

2nd Thursdays, 10am - 12noon, Fahs House

Co-Leaders: Al McKenney and Wayne Moyer

For the older members and friends of our community, the Odyssey Group explores how to live a richer life as senior UUs while providing opportunity to share the trials, tribulations, and grace of growing older with understanding friends.

Pathfinders Book Group

3rd Wednesdays, 12noon, Fahs House

Leader: Nancy Carnegie

The group chooses a book that explores the author's spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions. Books we have read include: God is not One by Stephen Prothero, Living with a Wild God by Barbara Ehrenreich. We welcome new members and ideas of new

Eating Together

Men's Breakfast Group

Each Friday, 8:30am,
Honey Butters, 4680
Monticello Ave.

Join this group of UU men for a friendly breakfast and lively conversation. No need to RSVP...just show up and ask for the UU's!

Rainbow Potluck

4th Sundays, 12:30pm,
Fahs House

For LGBTQ and Allies, this potluck lunch is open to everyone and anyone who wants to enjoy getting to know more people in this community. Please bring a dish to share.

Potluck Suppers

4th Fridays, 6:00pm,
Sanctuary

Gather the entire family and bring a dish to share at this potluck dinner beginning at 6:00pm on the Fourth Friday of each month.

Come for community, conversation, and delicious food!

books to read! Meeting dates for the fall and winter are:

- September 17-The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie
- October 15
- November 19
- December 17
- January 21, 2015

The Gayle Henion Creative Arts Group

Each Monday (except some holidays), 10:00am-12noon, Fahs House
Co-Leaders: Donna Stanford and Grace McArdle

The art group has been meeting for about seven years. It was organized by Gayle Henion and Jennifer Ryu soon after Jennifer arrived at WUU. It began, and remains, an affinity group for adults interested in any of the creative arts. Those involved bring whatever project they wish (painting, knitting, embroidery, digital art, paper crafts, etc...) to work in a congenial atmosphere with folks who share an interest in the creative arts.

Colonial Buddhist Meditation Group

Each Monday, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Sanctuary

Contact: Rev. Jennifer Ryu, jennifer@wuu.org

For beginners and experienced meditators, the Colonial Meditation Group is an "interfaith" Buddhist Sangha. This means that we don't follow one particular teacher or method. It is open to EVERYONE who is interested in joining a practice community. Children and Youth are encouraged to practice with us! Because this is an outreach activity for WUU, we use Meetup to draw participants from the larger Williamsburg community. Please join this group for all the information you will need:

<http://www.meetup.com/Colonial-Buddhist-Meditation-Group>

Circle Dinners

Organized by the Membership Team.

These are potluck dinner parties of UU friends and acquaintances of all ages—single folks or families. Approximately one dinner is held each month and it is a great way to meet newcomers and old timers! Circles are organized each fall, but new members can be added at any time. Most circles meet together in each others' homes for a potluck dinner, but each year one or two circles organize to meet in restaurants for lunch or dinner. Look for the notice announcing the signups.

Weekly Plate Offering

The offering received during the worship service is used for community outreach and to support WUU.

The first Sunday of each month, the entire offering is donated to a local charitable organization aligned with our mission.

On the second and fourth Sunday, the offering goes to the WUU general operating fund.

The third Sunday's collection goes toward paying down our mortgage.

The fifth Sunday's collection goes to the Minister's Charitable Fund, which is used to meet urgent needs of individuals or families within our congregation or in the larger community.

Stewardship

In terms of financial resources, our congregation is entirely self-supporting. As members and friends, we find spiritual growth in each other's company while we share in the support of our programs and care of our facilities. We lend our time and talent to various activities that support the WUU mission, and we make a pledge of financial support as individuals and families toward meeting our operating budget.

The Stewardship Committee is a Committee of the Board, and its current Chairperson is Peter Mellette.

WUU's Annual Canvass

In February and March, members and friends receive information about plans for programming and the money needed for the coming year's operations. During this time, each of us is asked to consider our commitment to WUU and to pledge a contribution which is affordable and reflects our commitment to the community we have built.

Pledges from members and friends are the most important source of support to WUU. Income from pledges covers over 85% of annual operating expenses; for example, the present 12-month (July 2014-June 2015) budget shows expenses of \$377,000, toward which we have received 182 pledges of support totaling \$321,496.

Facilities rental, the weekly offering and fundraising activities provide the remaining 15% of operating funds. The Stewardship Committee welcomes your generous support of our congregation through the annual canvass as one of the ways we participate in supporting our congregation.

Fundraising Activities—Emphasizing the “Fun”

Several other activities and events supported by other WUU volunteers beyond the Stewardship Committee help fund our mission.

WUU Auction: During this event, which is our major WUU “funraiser”, we gather to enjoy fellowship, food and music as we bid for goods and services donated by members, friends and area merchants. Because of this year's Capital Campaign, we are moving the Auction from the Fall to the Spring. Stay tuned for the exact date!! This year, Debbie Haynes and Dawn Traver are the co-chairs.

WALT

Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT) has been a public service project of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists since 2000. It is a non-profit educational program that brings people together to share in the fun of learning. WALT offers more than 65 different classes led by people in the community who have a talent or interest that they want to share with others.

WALT classes are offered to everyone from teens to seniors. In the Spring (last Saturday in January) and Fall (first Saturday in September) new schedules of courses are opened for registration. A complete listing of classes is available in the Virginia Gazette, online at www.wuu.org/walt, in the W/JCC Libraries, or in the WUU narthex. Registration is available through the mail and online.

If you are interested in hosting a class or helping, please call Jill Whitten - Program Coordinator, 220-9975

Equal Exchange: Several Sundays each month, high quality fair-trade coffee and chocolate are sold following the worship service. These sales support fair labor and trade practices on coffee plantations, and WUU receives a commission. Quint Guvernator leads this project.

Bed & Breakfast: WUUs offer to host visitors to the Williamsburg area (typically other UUs from out of town) for overnight visits and a light breakfast in our homes. Hosts stipulate dates and criteria for guests (number of visitors, no smoking, etc.)

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Bed & Breakfast consists of a group of members and friends who have agreed to host guests in their homes for the benefit of the church. Travelers using our B&B meet hosts who share many of their interests, concerns, and values. They enjoy comfortable quarters at affordable prices and have the opportunity of obtaining answers to questions about the area they are visiting. Hosts meet people from other places and make new friends. As hosts we receive a year's access to the UU're Home website.

Contact Grace McArde if you would like to open your home to this wonderful program.

Campus Improvement Team

Practicing good stewardship also means taking care of our physical facilities. Our campus includes 8 acres and 3 buildings. All of these areas need our constant attention and care.

The CIT Leader is Les Solomon. We are currently seeking a co-leader who would eventually take over this team.

Fall Grounds Day

Saturday, October 11, 9am

This is the day the whole community comes out to rake, clip, dig, plant, and clean! Bring the family, and let's work together to take care of our house! Lunch provided.

Seven UU Principles

The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote:

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.

Social Justice Ministry

As Unitarian Universalists we are called by our faith to build relationships in our community and the world based on equality and justice. In response to this call, the WUU Social Justice Ministry supports projects that address injustice and serve our local, national, and global communities; strengthen our connections with each other and the people on whose behalf we work; encourage us to remain open to and seek dialogue with those who hold opposing views; and deepen the spiritual lives of the people involved in the justice work.

The WUU Social Justice Ministry (SJM) seeks to:

- Prepare WUUs to do transformative social justice work through an unending circle of interpersonal connection, spiritual growth, and action working to affect social change.
- Build a sustained social justice infrastructure within WUU.
- Develop and bring to the public square a distinctly UU voice of liberal religion.
- Build alliances with other faith and secular organizations in order to seek justice in our local, national, and global communities.

LGBTQ Outreach

As a UUA-designated “Welcoming Congregation,” WUU is dedicated to welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people, their families, and friends to our congregation and concentrating on issues that affect the LGBTQ community.

Join us for a Rainbow Potluck at 12:30 every fourth Sunday or contact Fred Gilbertson at LGBTQChair@wuu.org for more information.

Mosaic Makers

WUU is committed to being an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural institution. To that end, the Mosaic Makers team was formed by the Minister in 2014 to help the congregation continue its journey in this challenging work.

Southeast District Racial Justice Conference

Begins at 6:00pm, Friday, October 24, 2014 and ends at 12noon on Sunday, October 26, 2014.

Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Durham, NC (3 hour drive from WUU)

Share the Plate

This program affords the congregation a regular opportunity—on the first Sunday of each month—to contribute generous financial support to selected local charitable and non-profit human services organizations.

Agencies whose policies and practices do not contradict UU principles may be nominated by congregants.

Team Leader: Roger Baldwin,
rbaldwin@widomaker.com
or stp@wuu.org

September-Literacy for Life

October-Meals on Wheels

November-FISH

December-Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

Christmas Eve-WUU Homeless Shelter

January-Community Resources Center or GWOM

February-Community Of Faith Mission

Based on WUU's prior actions, current commitments, and future potential to become leadership congregations in the work of multicultural ministries and social movement building in the Southeast District, the Southern Region, and the Unitarian Universalist Association invites members of the WUU congregation to attend the 2014 RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE.

**Please don't let the cost (\$89, single; \$139, double) stand in your way. We have some funds to help cover these costs. Contact Dave Wilcox, Social Justice team leader to request a scholarship.

Please Register Today:

<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/mosaicmakers2014.html>

Environmental Stewardship: Green Sanctuary

WUU is a UUA-accredited Green Sanctuary. Our vision is that this be a place where each individual considers his environmental impact in every action and our collective awareness is reflected in church policy and in every area of congregational life.

Among those projects are the following that address Social and Environmental Justice:

- CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Food Sharing Program with Avalon. During the summer, fresh produce was donated by participating WUU families, from their weekly food shares, to Avalon. This program, begun in 2010, will continue throughout this year's growing season and will be repeated annually. Current and new CSA members may subscribe in early spring.
- Adopt-a-Highway. WUU has agreed with the Va. DOT to clean litter, four times a year, from the one-mile stretch of Ironbound Road that fronts the WUU campus. In return for our volunteer service, VDOT has erected signs acknowledging our participation and provides necessary supplies. Clean-ups are announced in the weekly Spiral. New recruits to the "road gang" are always welcome. Contact Roger Baldwin at rbaldwin@widomaker.com for more information.
- Community Garden. Ten raised beds are available behind Fahs House for the use of adults and children who share the work of weeding and watering.

Working with other Unitarian Universalists

Legislative Action

WUU is working with the UU Legislative Ministry of Virginia to advocate for positive change at the state level. Contact John Whitley at peacenow1@verizon.net for more information.

UUSC–Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Guests At Your Table is our annual project to support the work of the UUSC. Every day in the month of November, the congregation will collect their loose change then bring it to WUU the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

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Economic Justice

Community of Faith Mission - Homeless Shelter: Our largest social justice project of the year, the COFM shelter opens our sanctuary as a homeless shelter for one week in February. There are many ways to help from providing and serving food, to helping staff a midnight shift. Contact Helen Hansen at helenfoxhansen@gmail.com for more information.

FISH (The Red Wagon): A local organization that accepts donations of food, clothing and other items to provide to needy and homeless individuals in our local area. Each month FISH provides thousands of dry and canned foods, supplies house wares, and helps clothe many households in our community. Please bring a food item each Sunday and place it in the FISH wagon in the entry way so that we can help keep them supplied. Each month has a different focus. Team Leader is Susan Dexter.

- September-Peanut butter
- October-Pasta and sauce
- November-Canned vegetables
- December-Canned fish
- January-Canned Soup
- February-Warm comfort foods (mac & cheese, desserts)

Housing Partnerships: WUU works with Housing Partnerships to provide direct vital housing repair services to low-income, sick or disabled individuals and families in the Historic Triangle. Watch the Spiral for upcoming projects or contact Corinne Blackford at blackford.corinne@gmail.com for more information.

How To Stay Informed about Social Justice @ WUU

Please check the monthly Social Justice Newsletter, bulletin board, and information table located in the entry way.

Contact David Wilcox at SJChair@wuu.org for more information or questions.

Information about social/environmental justice is available through the Green Sanctuary section of WUU's Social Justice webpage including a catalog of materials in the WUU library, information about organic and local food shopping, and links to pertinent websites.