



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

A Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing Community

The Spiral December 4, 2014

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This Sunday at WUU: December 7, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

**"Miracle on the Sandbar: Conversation with John Murray
Led by WUU Worship Associates**

Charles Tankersley, Eva Burke, Anne Stevens, and the Worship Team bring you the story of American Universalism.

Share the Plate

On Sunday, December 7th, our Share the Plate program will donate the entire collection to the **Virginia Peninsula Foodbank**. This is the leading non-profit hunger-relief organization in the region that solicits, receives and distributes purchased and donated food and grocery products to charitable agencies that directly help the needy. Its main center is in Hampton, but it supports over a dozen agencies in our local area with food and hope for our neighbors in the community. Michele Benson-Howel, the Chief Development Officer for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, will do a brief presentation at both services.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, December 4

10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary

6:30 pm, Navigators Monthly Meeting, Fahs House

7:00 pm, Alt. Funding Task Force Team Meeting, Activities Room

Sunday, December 7

7:00 pm, Alt. Funding Task Force Team Meeting, Activities Room

Sunday, December 7

9:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary

11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary

4:00 pm, YRUU, Parker House

Monday, December 8

10:00 am, Gayle Henion Creative Arts Group, Fahs House

6:00 pm, CREW Meeting, Fahs House

7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 pm, Worship Team Meeting, Fahs House

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 11

10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary

11:00 am, The Odyssey, Fahs House

7:00 pm, Laughter Yoga, Sanctuary

[View the entire WUU Calendar Here](#)

Next Sunday: December 14, 2014

9:15 am & 11:15 am

"Expecting Miracles"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Weaving together stories from Emerson's controversial divinity school address, the recent Pew research studies, and Hanukkah with the poetry of Nikki Giovanni and Thich Nhat Hanh, we reflect on the meaning of Miracle.

Building Our Future

The James City County Planning Commission unanimously approved the Special Use Permit for our expansion, Wednesday evening, along with some very positive comments from commissioners. There were no speakers from the community. About 25 WUU's were on hand to lend support. This approval was necessary to allow our expansion and it keeps us on schedule toward construction in September. The application goes before the the JCC Board of Supervisors in January, with the hope of final approval.

Social Justice





Winter Homeless Shelter

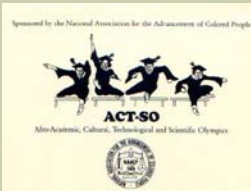
Temple Beth EL will be hosting the COFM Homeless Shelter on Christmas and Christmas Eve.

If you can volunteer for a shift, please contact Helen Hansen, helenfoxhansen@gmail.com; 757-645-3331



FISH Collection for December (our local food pantry)

December is new underwear and socks for all ages all sizes. This has been our Special Christmas Donation for many years. They can be placed in the red wagon or under our Christmas tree once it has been set up at Yule Sing. Of course canned items of soups and vegetables are always appreciated...



Martin Luther King Jr NAACP ACT-SO Breakfast

The 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. NAACP ACT-SO Breakfast honoring local high-achieving high school minority students will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015 at the CW Lodge and Conference Center. In support of this program, WUU has again reserved a table this year (10 places). Please contact Jessica O'Brien at 810-7859 or newjb2001@hotmail.com to purchase your seat. Tickets are \$40 per adult.

Religious Education

Each Sunday all children begin in the worship service. Following the wisdom story, children may go with their teachers to class or choose to remain in the sanctuary.

- Lower Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)–UU Principles
- Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5)–Peace & Justice
- Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)–Beloved Community

Caring Committee

Please contact caringchair@wuu.org if you know of a member of the Congregation in need of support, or if you are in need of support.

Yule Sing and Potluck

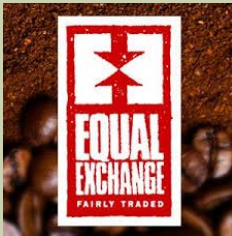




Yule Sing For All Ages: Friday December 12 Potluck Dinner, Crafts, Trim The Tree And Caroling

The Membership and Social Justice Teams and the Council for Religious Education have teamed up to bring you this fun-filled event for everyone! The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Potluck Dinner followed by crafts for all ages to make decorations and trim our WUU Christmas tree. In addition to information and ideas about compassionate giving during the holidays, we'll enjoy singing favorite carols, and Santa may make a surprise appearance! PLEASE JOIN US for this annual event.

Other News



Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate-Coffee Cabinet Now in the Library

Did you know that WUU sells coffee, tea, and chocolate? The proceeds not only benefit WUU, your purchase of fairly traded coffee and chocolate helps build pride, independence and community empowerment for small farmers and their families. A coffee processing plant in El Salvador, community stores in Colombia, the training of doctors in Mexico, new schools in Peru - these are examples of initiatives co-ops have taken in their own communities with the income from Fair Trade.

Coffee and chocolate will be available for sale on most Sundays in the library--look for the big cabinet. Coffee (ground, whole bean, and k-cups) are all priced at \$10/bag or box; Tea is \$5/box; Chocolate is \$3/large bars, 2/\$3 for medium bars, and minis are 5/\$1 and taxes are included and you are supporting two great causes! We have a couple of specials running right now, stop by and check them out. Contact the office at (757) 220-6830 or office@wuu.org with any questions or special orders.



Lost & Found Clean-up

Our lost and found is overflowing with coats and jackets. Please check the coat racks in both mens and ladies restrooms to see if one might belong to you. All items that are not claimed by next week will be donated to FISH. If you think you might have left one but can't get here call or email the office with a description and Ellyn will check for you (757) 220-6830 or office@wuu.org



Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

The last Ironbound Road cleanup of 2014 is scheduled for this Saturday, December 6



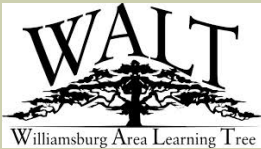
Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

The last Ironbound Road cleanup of 2014 is scheduled for this Saturday, December 6 (Weather permitting, of course). Our WUU team will muster at 10 am in the Fahs House. We welcome newcomers. To register or for more information, please email rbaldwin-at-widomaker.com.



Candlelight Winter Solstice Service

Join us to for a candlelight Winter Solstice service in the sanctuary on **Sunday December 21 at 7pm**. It will be a meditative, music based gathering to celebrate the return of the light on the darkest day of the year. Come lend your voice, warm your spirit and walk the lit labyrinth after the service to contemplate the turning of the year. While all are welcome, this service is appropriate more for older children who would enjoy a quiet reflective service. Childcare for younger UUs can be available in Fahs if requested at least a week in advance.



WALT Class Proposals Welcomed

The Spring 2015 WALT Schedule of Courses is now accepting class proposals until January 10, 2015. We invite anyone interested in hosting a future class to visit the WALT website at www.wuu.org/walt or call Jill Whitten – Program Coordinator at 757-220-9975.

Twice a year the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT) offers assorted "Learning for Fun" classes that brings together individuals in our community to share their knowledge of a subject that they love so that the rest of us can learn from them. WALT, a community service project of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, is a non-profit, educational program that encourages people to "Try Something New." For 15 years, hundreds of courses have been offered to everyone from teenagers to senior citizens. The upcoming Spring 2015 WALT Schedule of Courses will be available on Saturday, January 31 in the Virginia Gazette, online at www.wuu.org/walt, in print at the W/JCC Libraries.



Support for NAACP's Winter Necessity Drive

Join the William and Mary Chapter of the NAACP and Hearts Full of Grace as they prepare "winter necessity bags" to benefit the homeless community. Please help them fill 100 bags by donating hats, gloves, scarves, blankets/throws, tote bags/reusable grocery bags. This is a gray tote in the Narthex for your donations. The drive will run through the first week in December.

Stewardship News

Let's Celebrate our Successes

In this season of celebration, let's celebrate our successful year as a congregation. It began with a flawless operation of the Community of Faith mission, continued with a 25th Anniversary celebration that brought together many old friends who were involved in the

In this season of celebration, let's celebrate our successful year as a congregation. It began with a flawless operation of the Community of Faith mission, continued with a 25th Anniversary celebration that brought together many old friends who were involved in the founding and the nurturing of this congregation, and led to a September decision to take the first steps toward the expansion of the sanctuary building to meet the congregation community's needs. The November gala affirmed the congregation's vote to develop plans and pursue financing by the announced pacesetter pledges of over \$1.1 million. Along the way, the congregation bore witness to the removal of legal barriers to marriage (something we had advocated just 7 years earlier), celebrated the arts and the environment, participated in a youth mission trip to West Virginia, hired a new director of religious education, listened to and participated in stirring sermons and music programs, and took many important steps in caring for each other.

In each of the calendar year 2014 highlights above – and the many more that go unmentioned – we chose to support this congregation with our time, talent and treasure. That treasure included the annual canvass, which (with recent gifts from new members), now stands at \$325,496 in 2014-15 pledges from 186 households. The gifts pledged for this year are now slightly above the amounts raised in 2013-14, and the amounts paid so far are coming in ahead of schedule. Annual pledge payments allow us to carry out our mission, through the labors of Rev. Jennifer and her team of dedicated staff and volunteers, and support the activities of congregational committees and program teams responsible for much of our success.

Thank you for your many contributions to the success of our congregation, and best wishes for a memorable and happy holiday season. The Stewardship Committee looks forward to working with you to build upon our successes this year and to develop an annual canvass that will support the dreams of our future facilities.

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

Upcoming Events

- **December 12:** Potluck and Yule Sing
- **December 21:** Winter Solstice Evening Service
- **December 24:** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- **December 25:** Office Closed-Merry Christmas
- **December 28:** Rainbow Potluck
- **January 1:** Office Closed-Happy New Year
- **February 15-22:** COFM Homeless Shelter at WUU

Links



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