

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

February 2015



Mark Your Calendar

2.1

COFM Kick-Off

2.5

Navigators Monthly Meeting

2.8

Wi\$dom Path Workshop

Parents as Spiritual Teachers

2.15

Annual Congregational Meeting

Coffee Talk-Transgender

2.22

Rainbow Potluck

2.27

4th Family Fun Potluck

2.28

Usher Safety Training

February's Spiritual Theme is "Money and Life"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

FEBRUARY--A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE

This month's spiritual theme is "Money and Life." We will address this theme in February's worship services and monthly Spiritual Practices Guide. However, I would like to set aside that topic here to talk about the announcement I made a few weeks ago.

I've been invited to preach to 500 Unitarian Universalist ministers at our biennial "Institute for Excellence." In early February, members of the UU Minister's Association will meet in Monterey, California for a full week of continuing education, worship, and fellowship. The theme of my sermon is not unrelated to my decision to conclude my ministry in Williamsburg at the end of June.

When I entered seminary in 2002, I had no idea where that decision would lead. Some of my classmates were certain that they would be parish ministers. All I knew was that I wanted a life that centered on God, even though I could not have told you what I meant by "God." By the time I finished my internship in Walnut Creek, CA, I fell in love with the rhythms of church life.

Life as a parish minister is varied, challenging, and rewarding. As pastor, I have met people and have been invited to events that I would not have had access to as a layperson. I have served on two community boards and have been invited to deliver the invocation at a number of public events from the Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary to the Middle Passage Port Markers ceremonies. I had the pleasure of preaching the Thanksgiving sermon in Colonial Williamsburg and giving blessings on the installation of Rabbi Katz. I have also met the people who are least seen in our community--those for whom the church exists in the first place.

Continued on page 2...

Minister's Article Continued ...

The tasks of ministry are virtually endless. There is always another Sunday to prepare for, another person to visit, another email to answer. I filled my days with the tasks of ministry, and I became the busy pastor of an active, vibrant congregation. I filled my mind with ideas, to-do lists, and worries about what was not getting done. I was full--so full that there was no stillness in my mind and no spaciousness in my soul. I had lost sight of God. Over the past few years, my constant busyness has pushed out many of my spiritual practices, especially prayer.

I'll be spending the next year in search for my next ministry. One of the first things I will do is engage a spiritual director to help me to cultivate my relationship with God. As for that next ministry--will it be a large church with lots of support staff? Will it be a very small, rural church? Will it be in a hospital or hospice, in the streets or in a shelter? Those are the pathways I will be exploring, just as you will be exploring your pathways with your Interim Minister.

WUU is a wonderful congregation, and this is the right time for both of us to make a change.

With a heart overflowing with love and thankfulness,

Jennifer



February Worship Schedule

February 1, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"The UnBusy Life: A Path to Freedom"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

Love Surrounds Us in Nature

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

Work Together

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

Making Visible the Invisible

YRUU (High School Youth): Loyalty

February 8, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"Moving Toward a Personal Consciousness of MONEY and LIFE"

Linda Osborn, Guest Minister

Linda invites us to begin exploring our spiritual relationship with money. She holds graduate degrees in counseling and ministry, and has a special interest in the spiritual dimensions of healing and healthy living. She has held positions in medical settings in Williamsburg for the past 25 years, and is currently the Director of Patient/Family Volunteer Services at Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg. Linda and her husband Gary live in Saluda, and together have six children (and spouses) and 10 grandchildren.

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

Semester Party

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5): Work

Semester Party

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

Images of Injustice

YRUU (High School Youth): Zentangles

February 15, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Jane Thickstun

"A More Welcoming Congregation: Transgender Awareness"

Immediately following this worship service, please stay for a "Transgender Coffee Talk" with guests from Equality Virginia

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

The Gift of Love

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

We Are All One

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

All Work Has Honor

YRUU (High School Youth): Homeless Shelter

Is Money Spiritual? Join us for the February 8, 2015 Wi\$dom Path Workshop

Over the next month of worship, the spiritual theme is money. Money is a common commodity that, on its face, does not seem sacred or worthy of study. Nonetheless, most of us dedicate a significant part of our lives to earning money. We plan for and worry about both the money we have and the money we don't have. We consider how to use money to support what we care most about. We engage in—or, more likely, avoid engaging in—money conversations.

So what's your money story? Do you pray to the money gods? Do you view money as a virtue of hard work or as another barrier to hurdle? Are you powerless in relationship to your money or do you put it to good use carrying out your spiritual goals?

Your Stewardship Committee will be putting on the first of several planned workshops on how to approach your relationship with money. The Sunday February 8, 2015 workshop begins with lunch and continues until 2 pm at Fahs House. You can sign up on Sunday, February 1st in the sanctuary narthex after services, by calling the WUU office, or online by using Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WisdomPathworkshop020815>. Childcare will be available.

Annual Pledge Canvass Begins Sunday, February 22, 2015

Looking ahead, the annual pledge canvass to support the 2015-16 WUU operating budget begins on February 22nd. The canvass gives WUU members and friends the opportunity to show that we care for the work we do together. Your support keeps our chalice burning and makes possible the lifespan religious education program, social justice activities, and nurturing spiritual community we provide to each other and to the greater Williamsburg community.

The pledge goal is \$331,000, an amount that is a slight increase over this year's pledges of approximately \$327,000. Income from pledges represent WUU's biggest source of revenues, over 85% of our budgeted expenses in our three-year budget. Your pledges pay expenses that the Board has determined are needed to meet obligations to you and to the community we serve.

The pledge canvass gives each WUU family the opportunity to support WUU's mission. Many of you will do so through advance pledges given in pre-campaign requests to several WUU affinity groups. Everyone else can help us spend less time and less WUU money by picking up a pledge form with your name at the WUU Sunday worship service before March 8th, rather than waiting for a form to be sent to you. The Stewardship Committee plans to report weekly on progress and to end the pledge canvass quickly. But that depends on hearing back from you promptly.

Instructions for donations to the 2015-16 operating fund are available in each family's pledge packet letter and in a link on the www.wuu.org home page. Online donation is also welcome and encouraged. Smaller periodic gifts from your financial institution or through VANCO add up over time and provide a steady source of income for WUU ministries.

Thank you for the community we have created together. **WITH YOUR GIFTS, HELP WUU THRIVE AND BLESS THE WORLD**

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee

February Worship Schedule Cont.

February 22, 2015

9:15am & 11:15am

"My Money, Your Money, Our Money"

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

The Botetourt Chamber Singers from the College of William & Mary offer the music for this service.

Religious Education:

Lower Elementary (Pre-K, K, 1, 2):

The Gift of Covenant

Upper Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5):

Hearing the Inner Voice

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):

Prayer Is A Place To Grow A Soul

YRUU (High School Youth): Group Potluck

Black History Month Jazz Concert

Featuring Harris Simon (NYC and Wmbg) on piano and Atiba Taylor (Richmond and Maceio, Brazil) on saxophone.

WUU Sanctuary

Sunday, February 22nd

7pm

\$10 per ticket

Proceeds, in part, will benefit the NAACP Scholarship fund.



Food For FISH

(our local community's food & clothing pantry)



Suggestions for February donations to Fish are canned meats, small canned hams (spam, treet), and canned stews.



Please check for dates. Thank you and know that Fish really appreciates our donations!

Share the Plate Sunday, February 1

Community of Faith Mission



Community of Faith Mission will be the recipient of the Share the Plate donations on February 1. COFM is a non-profit organization that initiated and now coordinates the Williamsburg, James City County, York County Winter Shelter, providing safe overnight stays for local homeless individuals and families. This program is hosted by 16 churches, each for one week in turn, assisted by 13 partner faith groups. WUU has been involved since COFM's beginning in 2012.

We will be hosting the shelter February 15-22. Funds are needed to replenish the "GODPOD" supply trailer, including mattresses, bedding, towels, paper products, and toiletries.

Please visit www.cofm.info for more information. To learn about the WUU Share the Plate program, or to nominate a recipient agency, email stp-at-wuu.org.

Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

That's why we want to include a brief member biography in every newsletter.

Maybe you'll discover someone who shares your background, interests, or hobby. Maybe you'll learn something new about someone you already know. Or maybe you'll be moved to reach out to someone who needs to hear from you.

Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, ackleymw@gmail.com

Spotlight on Pat Hoppe



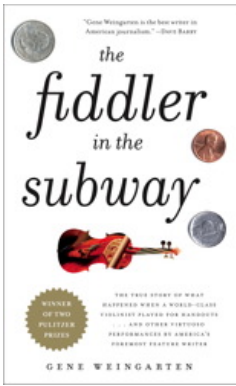
Pat was born in 1944 and raised in Southern Indiana on an apple farm, first among four sisters, of a beautiful mother and handsome father who served in WWII. She made good grades, determined to become a nurse, but writing talent intervened about the time she was elected co-editor of her school newspaper as a senior. She had a column in the paper called "Patty-cake", wrote poems, and had control of the school's annual literary magazine. Then at college she determined to study English and became a teacher.....after her short story about racial problems was published in the school's literary magazine.

In 1965 she married and moved to Virginia to become an army officer's wife. Their son, Wayne, was born in 1967 and a daughter, Jocelyn, in 1973. Pat taught English first at Gloucester High in 1970, after having graduated from William and Mary. After 15 years, she accepted a contract from West Point and taught there for almost 20 years. She thought she was retiring then, but two professors from CNU (who had frequently helped out with Pat's forensics competitions) invited her to help them with the many new freshmen and women on campusas she had attained a Masters in English in 1994, she agreed that would be fun. Other teaching and nannying assignments have been fun, but the most exciting work experience recently being the WUU interim religious educator!

Her son and his family live near West Point in New York where they pursue careers as musicians. The two granddaughters play a variety of instruments and sing in their school's choruses and musicals. But the older of the two is in a pre-med program at Northeastern University. The younger one is a freshman at Cornwall High School. Jocelyn's world is Manhattan and the world of the Internet.....and, she enjoys the pleasures of yoga. Pat's interests lie in writing, meditating, singing, reading, and cooking. Her passions are experiences that open the soul to know more, to do more, to be a person who is open to others, whether in pain or in joy. "I feel best when I am useful," she says of her life.

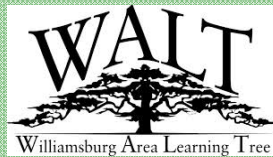


Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group



Next meeting is on February 18th at 12pm in Fahs House. Already named as our February selection, "The Fiddler in the Subway" (Gene Weingarten) is available from Amazon.com in Paperback and Kindle versions. Also shown are a number of used copies for \$.01 plus postage. The book consists of a number of short pieces, so let's all read the "Fiddler" for discussion. We will tackle as many selections as time allows.

At the February meeting we will need to decide on books for the next few months, so please bring suggestions and copies of the books if you have them.



WALT is Back

WALT (The Williamsburg Area Learning Tree) is a WUU community outreach education program that brings people together to share the fun of learning. The 2015 Spring WALT Schedule of courses is offering more than 65 amazing classes that are interesting, fun and open to everyone of all ages. WALT brings together people who are enthusiastic to share their talents and interests with others who want to Try Something New.

A complete list of courses is available online at www.wuu.org/walt or in print in the WUU narthex or W/JCC Libraries; registration is through PayPal or by mail. WALT is always looking for new instructors. If you are interested in teaching a future WALT course or have questions or suggestions, please contact Jill Whitten - Program Coordinator, WALT at 757-220-9975 or walt@wuu.org.

Religious Education Corner

Austen Petersen, Director of Religious Education



We have TWO Purell distribution stations, now! One distributor resides in Fahs House near the main entrance, and the other is in the narthex.

The children now stay in the sanctuary during services long enough to witness and participate in the offertory. What a wonderful opportunity we have to embody gratitude and pass it on to a future generation.

The children's collection of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters will accumulate throughout this next semester, visible through the glass container much like sand in an hourglass. Together, these coins become a symbol of how much we can do by pooling our resources together drop by drop. The children will vote for a charity to receive the monetary gift at the end of the semester. Your child can participate by walking a coin up to the chancel and placing it with the others during the offertory.

The Lower Elementary class, with the leadership of Stacy Bolling, will be creating laminated placemats to welcome our homeless guests this February. Well done, kids, and well done, Stacy!



WUU Board response regarding letters in the Virginia Gazette (this response was in The Gazette on 1/17/15)

The theology of Unitarian Universalists places great emphasis on the worth and dignity of every person. Paul Rasor put it this way: "All human beings have the right to a meaningful and fulfilling life, including physical safety and economic and social well being." Furthermore, we have a moral obligation to speak out when some members of our communities are treated in ways that deny their personhood.

Dr. Daniel Shaye has called attention to two such occasions in an essay appearing in the December 31, 2014, issue of the Virginia Gazette. His main point is that "...all lives matter regardless of skin color, uniforms, preferences or other trivial differences between us." Of course all lives matter. But sometimes the deaths of a few point to problems in our society that cry for our attention.

Black youths are 21 times more likely to be killed by police than white youths. Prison sentences for African Americans are on average 20% higher than for white people. The current unemployment rate for African Americans is 11.4% compared to whites at 5.3%. Holding up stark statistics does not denigrate law enforcement officers, who are performing their duty as they are directed, but does call us to action.

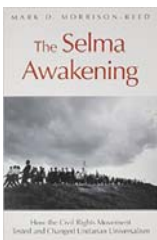
Several of us from the Williamsburg congregation felt there should be a community gathering to find meaning in Trayvon Martin's brief life, and on July 25, 2013, we held a service of reflection. As part of the evening we asked the inter-racial audience to discuss three questions: How did Trayvon's death affect you personally? What role did racism play in this tragedy? How can we respond to all of the Trayvon Martins? We learned from black parents what they tell their sons so they may survive a criminal justice system that routinely disrespects young black men.

This November several congregants worked closely with NAACP, All Together, and William and Mary graduate student Travis T. Harris to organize a Black Lives Matter March on Duke of Gloucester Street. Rev. Jennifer Ryu sent an e-mail announcing the gathering to our members inviting their participation, and many responded. This peaceful gathering again directed attention to the disparate numbers of young black men killed at the hands of police and security officers.

Unitarian Universalists come from a long line of people who, directed by their theology of love, have taken courageous moral positions. When Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., called for ministers of all faiths to join him in Selma on March 8, 1964, 190 of our ministers joined him along with several hundred lay people. Two were murdered: Rev. James Reeb and Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a mother of five from Fort Wayne.

Dr. Shaye is wrong when he writes that Unitarian Universalist participation in events like those above paint us in an "extremist light." Peacefully expressing concerns over social injustice has long been a central theme of our denomination. Far from representing an extremist position, it is simply the exercise of freedom of speech calling on society to live up to its promise of equality.

Mosaic Maker's Corner



The MM team wishes to call your attention to the five-week course titled, *Anti-racism: Selma Awakening*, being conducted by Rev. Jennifer Ryu beginning March 7, 2015. The book on which the course is based is now on sale in the narthex following both services for \$20, cash or check made out to WUU. Look for the announcement on page 7, of the 2015 Spring Program Guide. Program guides are available in the Narthex or in the office during office hours M-F 9-2.



Community of Faith Mission (COFM) Homeless Shelter

WUU will be hosting the Community of Faith Mission Winter Shelter February 15-22. Volunteer sign-ups are underway. You may volunteer for a shift on Sunday after services or on line.

Below is the link for volunteer sign-ups. There are 3 shifts:

- Evening - this includes welcoming, registering guests, serving dinner, entertainment, giving a blessing
- Overnight stay - 2 different shifts to monitor and insure safety of our guests.
- Morning - includes serving breakfast, signing out guests, and returning their belongings.

We encourage congregants to limit sign-ups for one evening shift, but you are welcome to volunteer for several overnight or morning shifts. www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094FA4AD28A0FE3-cofm
Thank you for your support of this important social justice work.

The sign-up genius will not be available on Sunday mornings when we are signing up volunteers in person.

Contact Helen Hansen helenfoxhansen@gmail.com, Ruth Hopkinson ruthhop46@gmail.com, or Kathy Suslik ksuslik@cox.net with questions.

Cooking for the Shelter



Help us provide meals at the Shelter: Sign-ups are going well. We are still in need of a few casseroles and breakfast items. If you can cook (recipes and/or serving numbers supplied), or if you can purchase specific items and would like to contribute to our efforts, please see Jessica O'Brien after the 11:15 service on Sundays or call her at 810-7859.

An Easy Way to Help the Shelter

Please donate your used magazines for our guests of the Shelter. Remember, please, appropriate magazines only! (NO gardening, fancy homes, money, or X rated magazines.) Any reading level, any language, and children's magazines welcome. Please put them in the labeled box in the WUU library. This is a GREAT way, for children and those not able to volunteer, to help with the shelter!



COFM Kick-Off and Training Sunday February 1

All volunteers are invited to a kick-off event at 12:30 February 1. We will answer questions and provide brief training for each volunteer job. Light refreshments will be served.

Training will also be offered on February 8 at 12:30. All volunteers are encouraged to attend a training session, especially if this is your first year to assist at the shelter.

January 30, 2015

Dear Fellow Congregants,

On behalf of the WUU Board, I request your attendance at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 15th from 10:30 to 11:00 AM. We encourage you to come 15 minutes early to sign in. All members with an active pledge are eligible to vote.

The meeting will include an Annual Report from the Minister and the Treasurer, followed by votes for nominees to the Board, the Endowment Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Right Relations.

You will receive a detailed agenda for the meeting next week. This is such an exciting time for our congregation and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gross Delbos

Rachel Gross Delbos
WUU Board Vice-President

You can view the biographies of the nominees by visiting the following link (they will also be posted in the narthex beginning at February 8

<http://wuu.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Nominating-Bios.pdf>

The meeting minutes that will be voted on can be viewed by clicking the following link:

http://wuu.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/WUU-CongregationalMeeting.min_02.09.2014.pdf

If you need an absentee ballot please contact Ellyn in the office at (757) 220-6830 or office@wuu.org



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Jennifer Ryu, Minister

Lola Warren, President

newsletter@wuu.org

TIME SENSITIVE

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.

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at office@wuu.org.)



February Anniversaries

Jane and John Nichols

Lisa Williams and Beth Pepper



February Birthdays

Kathryn Ayres

Roger Baldwin

Mary Buchanan

Priscilla Caldwell

Dick Calver

Nancy Carnegie

Vicki Hall

Debbie Haynes

Ruth Hopkinson

Phoebe Kent

Daniele Longo

Jessica O'Brien

Tom Payne

Jo Solomon

Ellyn Stephens

Jacques vanMontfrans

Carolyn Wilson

Bob Winther

Richard Wolfe