



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

W I L L I A M S B U R G , V I R G I N I A

A welcoming, witnessing, worshiping community.

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.



2016 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAM GUIDE

Lifelong Learning, Exploring, and Growing-Religious Education

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 2015 semester running from October 4, 2015 to June 5, 2016.

Lower Elementary (Pre-K-Grade 2): Creating Home

This program, part of the Tapestry of Faith series, helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith. Together, we will ask questions about the purpose of having a home, for us as humans and for other animals. The program introduces the concept of a "faith home"—our congregation—which shares some characteristics with a family home. Like a family home, a faith home offers its members certain joys, protections, and responsibilities. Children explore the deep sense of sacredness, the beauty of hospitality, and the gift of loving relationships that a home can represent. Watch for small differences in children's respect for one another and their engagement with the wider congregation as they learn to identify their Unitarian Universalist congregation as a home.

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5): Holidays & Holy Days

Holidays are the natural, age-old vehicle of religious socialization. A holiday is not something to talk about; it's something to DO. We have chosen holidays which in some way lift up a value we affirm, or address a universal human response to life. We honor both the diversity and particularity of cultural tradition, and at the same time the commonality of the human condition. "Under the sky, all people are one family" as Sophia Fahs reminds us, quoting an old Chinese proverb. Each Sunday session will bring something fun to celebrate. Check the calendar for the different topics!

Middle School (Grades 6-8): D'oh God (Simpsons)

This curriculum uses the animated television series *The Simpsons*, to help youth discuss important social issues and spiritual beliefs with peers. Competing for a youth's attention can be difficult today. Widespread television viewing, video game playing and internet surfing has created an environment where youth need visual stimulation to maintain interest. Pop culture can help to channel this environment into a learning opportunity, allowing youth to examine ethical and theological issues, while having fun.

Talking about sensitive issues with peers can be daunting, particularly if the youth lives and goes to school in a conservative atmosphere and knows that his/her viewpoint is not necessarily shared by the majority of his/her peers. Referencing a television show, a movie, a song, or a website can help youth express their opinions to others.

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 3 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.

Elisabeth Berning is our Nursery Coordinator. She may be reached at: nursery@wuu.org

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 McArdle if you would like to open your home to this wonderful program.

Pathfinders Book Group

The group chooses a book that explores the author's spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and we use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions.

Books the group has chosen for the next 6 months are:

- February 17 – Wild- by Cheryl Strayed
- March 16 – Short Stories by Jesus - by Amy-Jill Levine
- April 20 – Tall Grass - by Sandra Dallas

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday, at 12:00 noon and we are currently meeting in the narthex. Come and join us –and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

Donna Davenport (donnadavenport@gmail.com)

Nancy Crowell (westnbc@aol.com)

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.

Lay pastoral Care Associates:

Martha Elim mwelim@cox.net

Pat Hoppe
phoppesing@cox.net

David Hopkinson
davidhopkinson111@gmail.com

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry consists of the Minister, two co-chairs, and volunteers who serve the congregation by ensuring that every person feels they are supported in times of need.

Caring Team

This team provides care to members of WUU who are ill, disabled, elderly or shut-ins. This can be phone calls, visits to home or hospital, cards, delivery of meals, and transportation to doctor appointments. The condition and wishes of each person in need are recorded in a notebook, which also contains committee contacts and services rendered. 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 and Lay Pastoral Associates. Occasional educational workshops for the full committee are scheduled, with input from community experts in healthcare and senior services.

This year, Caring Ministry volunteers will be offered special training and will assume a more visible presence during services. The entire WUU congregation will be encouraged to become actively involved in helping one another, as outlined in our WUU Covenants.

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

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

Worship Associates

The Worship Associates (WA's) participate in the Sunday Services on a rotating basis, generally accepting one Sunday every four to six weeks. They also ensure that the Sanctuary maintains its sense of holiness and beauty. Joining the WA team is an ideal way to connect with the minister, music team, and the larger congregation on both individual as well as community-wide levels.

The WA team helps plan various aspects of worship, and also takes the lead during Lay-led services several times a year. *No prior experience or knowledge is required*, and training is offered on an ongoing basis. One-time participation as a 'Guest' Worship Associate is a great way to get one's toe wet, and get a taste of the joy-filled, playful backstory of the Sunday morning services.

The WA team meets once a month to plan upcoming services. To join or learn more about the WA team, please contact Reverend Dave (revdaj@aol.com), Pat Hoppe (phoppesing@cox.net), or Eva Burke (evaburke1@gmail.com).

Williamsburg Buddhist Meditation Group

Each Monday, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Sanctuary Contact: Ben Thacker-Gwaltney, 757-570-3005

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>

Thursday Morning Meditation

Each Thursday, 10am - 11:15am, Sanctuary Contact: Ben Thacker-Gwaltney, 757-570-3005

For both beginning and experienced meditators. Ben T-G follows different themes throughout the year for talks connected with meditation. This group has a more interactive feel than the Monday night meeting. Meditation consists of either guided or silent sitting. Donations welcome.

Wake Up Williamsburg

Fahs House, every other Wednesday at 6:30 PM, Contact: Rebecca Milburn

Wake Up Williamsburg is a mindfulness and meditation group for young adults in their 20s and 30s. We are part of a global community of young mindfulness practitioners called Wake Up International. We come together to practice mindfulness to take care of ourselves, nourish happiness and contribute to building a healthier and more compassionate society. We practice sitting, guided and/or walking meditation, share a reading, and have a discussion. Please join us! All young adults are welcome, regardless of meditation experience or belief.

For more information on Wake Up Williamsburg, contact: williamsburg@wkup.org or join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wakeupwilliamsburg/>

WUU Community Team

The WUU Community Team serves to create a Welcoming Community for all who come through our doors. Greets and welcomes all guests and members each Sunday morning. Follows up with guests to answer questions and invite them to activities. Leads Fellowship activities. Conducts Orientation sessions for all who are interested in learning about UU and WUU prior to becoming members. Promotes interaction among guests, new members and seasoned members.

Our three team co-chairs are: Carolyn Greathouse carolyngreathouse@cox.net, Catherine Laarhoven catnye75@gmail.com, and Carolyn Wilson c2wilson@cox.net. Feel free to contact them with any questions or if you would like to be included in the Community Team.

Music at WUU

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. The Choir 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

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 Jane Ferguson, Music Team leader: music@wuu.org.

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.

"Individuals and groups interested in offering music at Sunday morning services are invited to contact our Music Director, Dr. Jamie Bartlett, or one of the Music Team Chair, Jane Ferguson, either in person or at muscom@wuu.org "

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

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.

Want to Stay Informed about Social Justice @ WUU? Want to get more involved?

Check the monthly Social Justice Newsletter, bulletin board in the Narthex, and information table located in the entry way for current projects.

Subscribe to the once monthly Social Justice Newsletter to stay up to date. Email the Church Administrator, Ellyn Stephens, at office@wuu.org.

Is there a Social Justice initiative that you would like to lead at WUU? Let's talk!

Contact Jessica O'Brien at SJChair@wuu.org for more information or questions.

Share the Plate

This social justice outreach program affords the congregation a regular opportunity—on the second Sunday of each month—to contribute generous financial support to local charitable and non-profit human services organizations. The entire plate collection is donated to the selected agency. Agencies whose policies and practices reflect and do not contradict UU principles may be nominated by congregants. A description of the recipient organization for each month is published in the WUU Newsletter and Spiral.

Team Leader: Roger Baldwin. rbaldwin@widomaker.com For information or to nominate an agency, please email stp@wuu.org.

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.

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 congregational policy and in every area of congregational life. This year, we will explore new initiatives and projects to further promote issues of sustainability and environmental justice.

Our current Green Sanctuary projects is:

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 acknowledges 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.

Williamsburg Moral Mondays

Moral Mondays are observed on Duke of Gloucester Street each Monday 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to advocate visibly and vocally for social justice issues with local partners and to support the Moral Mondays in North Carolina. All are welcome!

Contact John Whitley for info peacenow1@verizon.net

Mosaic Makers

Are you uncomfortable when talking with people who don't look like you? Or who were raised in a culture you do not understand? Perhaps you feel awkward and afraid of saying something inappropriate?

You are not alone. This is why Jennifer Ryu, our minister from 2009-2015, established the Mosaic Makers Team last year and why the WUU Board adopted this resolution:

WUU are an open, welcoming congregation with no intentional barriers to membership that exclude individuals based on race, color, sexual orientation, economic resources or degree of education. Yet there are sometimes unintentional barriers, which act as obstacles to growth and diversity. Thus, for WUU to increase their role as a vital, effective force for liberal theology and social justice in our community, the WUU Board resolves that we: Raise the importance of multiculturalism within our congregation so that our questions and actions are viewed through this prism.

Mosaic Makers Team members will work with our various Ministry Teams to explore ways of implementing this resolution. We will sponsor various programs throughout the year for the congregation. Please meet up with us during coffee hours to learn more: Jessica O'Brien, John Whitley, Steven Sharp, Melanie Williams, Melissa Gregory, and Wayne Moyer. Or email mosaic@wuu.org for more information.

Economic Justice

Community of Faith Mission (COFM) Homeless Shelter: Our largest social justice project of the year, operating since 2012, the COFM Shelter Program has opened our sanctuary as a homeless shelter for one week in the winter. Due to our construction plans, WUU will be assisting another faith group run their shelter in 2016. There are many ways to help from providing and serving food, to helping staff a midnight shift.

In addition, we now have the opportunity to participate in a new GWOM initiative, the Harbor. The Harbor will be a day shelter for our homeless neighbors, open from 10AM to 2PM Monday through Thursday, located at St. Bede Outreach Center on Harrison Ave. near the transportation center and the library. The Harbor plans to offer hospitality, friendship, lunch, computer access, cell phone charging, showers, and a secure place to keep belongings. The Harbor will need 5 volunteers for four hours every day to operate. Twenty-two Faith Groups are being asked to invite members to become volunteers. Training will be available. Please consider volunteering for this important social justice mission. Contact Helen Hansen at helenfoxhansen@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about the Harbor our COFM.

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 housewares, 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. Watch the monthly newsletter and The Spiral for information on monthly needs. Team Leader is Susan Dexter.

WUU Youth Loves Fish: Each month this year we are asking our WUU young people to donate to FISH, the local group that provides food to families in need. Some children you go to school with may not have enough to eat at home. YOU CAN HELP! Each month we ask you to bring a different food item for the families in Williamsburg who need it. We will name a "food of the month" as a suggestion only. Anything that a young person would like to eat and is healthy and in a can, box or jar and has a current "best before ..." date is perfect! There will be a green bucket by the front door of the sanctuary for you to put your food in!

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.

WORKSHOPS FOR IMAGINATIVE THINKING -- AND FUN!

"I Need More Adroit!"

Six Mondays, 5:30 to 6:40 pm, Parker House

February 08, 15, 22, 29; and March 07, 14

What circumstances sometimes drive you crazy? When you feel trapped, confronted, or paralyzed by events that are beyond your control, what are the options for re-claiming and strengthening "the best of who you are"? How might the qualities of resilience, agility, and adaptive responsiveness be fostered in our individual and relational lives? These are among the questions which we will explore in this series of conversations based on Rabbi Edwin Friedman's consultations with Unitarian Universalist lay leaders. We will include supplementary readings from Friedman's unpublished memoirs.

"Listening to Experience: Breakthrough Congregations & Ministries"

Seven Wednesdays, 12 noon to 1:10 pm, Parker House

February 10 17, 24; and March 02, 09, 16, 23

What insights might we draw from the experiences of other UU congregations? What have several of the most skilled UU ministers observed – in 20-20 hindsight – as the factors which have been most crucial in fostering congregational vitality? These are among the questions we will consider with case-study examples from "Breakthrough Congregations" and from conversations with twelve of the most skilled (and highly-acclaimed) UU ministers.

"Of Bonds and Binds: Fables for Our Time"

Ten Wednesdays, 6:15 to 7:20 pm, Parker House

Come join us for this exploration of intriguing fables by Rabbi Edwin Friedman. Remaining dates and topics in the series are:

Wed 03 February	"Jean and Jane"
Wed 10 February	"Cinderella"
Wed 17 February	"Caught in Her Own Web"
Wed 02 Mar	"The Wallflower"
Wed 16 Mar	"Panic"
Wed 30 Mar	"Burnout"
Wed 06 April	"Narcissus"
Wed 13 April	"Tradition"
Wed 20 April	"The People of the Charm" (by Rev. Peter Steinke)