

WUUnews

Monthly Newsletter of

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



2017

Interim Minister's Letter: "Your Call, Your Response"

As of this writing (Monday May 22), Candidating Week is well underway. By the time you read this, you will have voted upon – and enthusiastically affirmed – the calling of Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig as your incoming settled minister. She has offered "Call and Response" as a compelling theme: Not just for Candidating Week, but for the years ahead as together you create shared ministries which will respond to our often-anxious and deeply-divided world. Your calling of a minister is among the major opportunities – and milestones – in a congregation's declaration of its core values, purpose, and visions for the future. I congratulate ALL those among you who have labored with dedication and skill through these two-plus years of ministry-transition. I am personally grateful that this, my final ministry, has been with such a caring, purposeful, supportive, and celebrative congregation. You have been such an amazing gift to me, far beyond whatever I may have contributed to you.

Diann and I are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary this year, with different opportunities throughout 2017, close to home and far away. We will also be adapting, experimenting, and learning about retirement: Not just the practical dimensions of living on Social Security and pension plan incomes, but also the novelty of having discretionary time and choices which were ours during years of employment. During this time of experimenting, we will retain our legal / permanent residence in Kansas, even as we will continue to rent our condo in Seasons Trace through April 2018. By then we will have had lots of practice in coming to terms with new realities of retirement, and will undoubtedly re-configure our options going forward.

Several of you have asked: "Will we see you around WUU after you have retired?" – and similar questions. The short answer is (and must be) no. Why is that the case? Your Minister will be Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig after August 01st of this year. Shortly after then Laura and I will formulate our own Letter of Understanding (or covenant of right relations): This Letter will re-iterate our commitment to abide by the provisions in the UU Ministers Association's "Guidelines for the Conduct of Ministry".

The UUMA Guidelines are in three parts: A Covenant; A Code of Conduct; and Standards of Professional Practice. The Covenant is brief, and is spoken aloud each year by UU Ministers attending our Annual Meeting during late June. The Code of Conduct specifies clear expectations, necessary boundaries, and accountability procedures in instances of violation. The Standards of Professional Practice reflect the day-to-day criteria for ethically grounded ministries – including recommendations regarding the relationship

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June Worship Schedule

June 4, 2017

10:00 am

"Salvation"

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister

On my final Sunday in the pulpit at WUU, I'll offer a personal spin on Salvation. My focus is not toward an imaginary utopia somewhere else or later on, but upon life-transforming opportunities that are in our very midst. I'll echo the wisdom of Reinhold Niebuhr: "Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore we are saved by hope. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love." Special music by the WUU choir, directed by Jamie Bartlett: "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place", by Johannes Brahms.

Membership Book Signing

Our Membership book will be open for signing on June 4th. If you have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2 or are transferring from another UU Congregation, we welcome you to come forward at the end of the service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU.

Farewell to Reverend Dave

Celebrate Reverend Dave Johnson's retirement with the whole WUU congregation at a breakfast in his honor at 11:20 am in the Gathering Hall. We will be feasting on pancakes and all the fixings with him and his wife, Diann. So put the Date on your calendar.

June 11, 2017

10:00 am

Flower Communion "Flowering Forward"

David Novak, Guest Speaker

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. Feeling the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together, he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for inspiration. This simple service was the result.

You are invited to bring a flower of your choice, either from your own garden or from a field or roadside. In the tradition of the first flower communion celebration held on June 4th, 1923, you will place your flower in a vase attended by some of our younger UUs.

Led by our guest storyteller David Novak, we will then explore how a blooming flower is a phase in a cyclical process that is generative of future possibilities. The "flower" is not an end result of growth, but forward-moving force opening out to the future.

Children and youth: this intergenerational service was created with you in mind! We invite you to stay for some special music, the children's story time and a fun activity—WUU needs your energy, spirit and imagination! Come and join us to talk about "Flowering Forward" in this an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.

June 18, 2017

10:00 am

Natalie Miller-Moore, Guest Speaker

Topic TBA

June 25, 2017

10:00 am

"By My Works I Will Show You My Faith"

Rev. Andrew Millard, Guest Minister

James is the most Jewish of the books in the collection of Christian scriptures known as the New Testament. As such, it emphasizes the importance of a living faith that manifests in good deeds, which in Unitarian Universalism is known as faith-in-action.

Martin Luther dismissed James as "an epistle of straw", preferring Paul's apparent emphasis on faith alone, but Luther was wrong!

Welcome Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, WUU's newly called settled minister!

On Sunday May 28, 2017, The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists enthusiastically voted to call the Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig as their new settled minister. In a packed Sanctuary following a service filled with joy and amazing music and after a week of opportunities for the congregation to get to know her, 98% of the 198 members who were present or who submitted an absentee ballot voted in favor of asking Rev. Laura to join us as we move into this next exciting chapter together.

Rev. Laura will officially start at WUU on August 1st. If you would like to learn more about her, please visit her webpage (<https://laurahortonludwig.org>)



Minister's Letter Continued

between incumbent ministers (whether settled or interim), ministers emeritus/a, and ministers who formerly served in this or other congregations, and who still reside in the area.

The Code of Conduct includes these provisions that pertain to all ministers, including retiring ministers such as me:

I will seek consultation among my colleagues practicing the diverse forms of parish-based and community-based ministry within the same geographical area, so that we may develop a mutually agreed Letter of Understanding regarding our several roles and the ways in which these may and may not intersect.

If I am not a settled, interim or consulting minister of a congregation served by a colleague, I will not offer, and will not accept requests for, ministerial services or public leadership from members of that congregation, or in that congregational context, unless I have a covenant with or until I have consulted with the minister serving there.

If my colleague asks me to refrain from performing such service or appearing in a leadership capacity, I will comply.

I encourage you to become familiar with these Guidelines: all UU Ministers done so, and rely upon these as our navigational reference points. These Guidelines are readily available for all on the UUMA website, at: <https://uuma.site-ym.com/general/custom.asp?page=guidelines>

On Sunday June 04th our worship service will include a formal closure of Interim Ministry. Beginnings and endings are important occasions, and should not be passed over lightly or ignored. Thus, your Presidents during my two years at WUU (Lola Warren and Les Solomon) will share with me in a very brief ritual of closing. A very wise colleague suggested to me that there are only four essential tasks of effective ministry: (1) Arrive well; (2) Leave well; (3) In the meantime, do what you can. (4) Have fun. Perhaps these criteria may also apply elsewhere?

I am so deeply grateful for the good fortune to have had WUU as the final chapter in my thirty years of full-time ministry. I cannot imagine a more joyful, supportive, purposeful, and celebrative congregation with which to share these concluding chapters. Now I shall move into my sixth (or seventh?) career, whatever it may turn out to be. I thank you for sharing the journey with me.

Much love and blessings on the roads ahead with Rev. Laura.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister (2015 - 2017)



Ministerial Search Committee

A little over a year ago the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists elected a seven-member Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) charged with the mission of finding a new minister who would be the best match for our congregation. In this past year Jane Reilly, Rachel Delbos, Fred Gilbertson, Debra Hill, John Hochella, Charles Tankersley, and David Wilcox dedicated themselves to that goal.

A Congregational Profile describing WUU and the partnership we hoped to have with our new minister was created using information gathered in surveys, cottage meetings, workshops and conversations with congregants. From reading hundreds of pages of ministerial applications, theological statements, sermons and spiritual journeys, the committee narrowed the ministerial choices through video conference interviews and then through neutral pulpit pre-candidating week-ends.

As we journeyed, the MSC aimed for transparency and openness through Q&A sessions, monthly newsletter updates and availability. Through disappointment and joy, the congregation supported, encouraged and embraced the committee. It was a gift to talk with so many of you in the congregation, to hear your hopes and dreams, and to feel the warmth of your unending support and trust throughout the search process. We could not have done it without all of you.

It was an honor to work so closely with each other this last year and we are proud of what we accomplished. The Ministerial Search Committee unanimously agreed to present Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig to the congregation as our ministerial candidate. We were excited to plan a candidating week full of opportunities for WUU to get acquainted with Rev. Laura, culminating with the congregational meeting.

However, it is now time for us to “resume our role as private citizens” again. This is the recommendation of our UUA resource guide and settlement handbook. The Ministerial Search Committee has completed its charge from the congregation and it is now time for the lay leadership to step forward and continue the transition and new beginnings. What an exciting time! We thank one and all for patience, for smiling during the tough times, for encouragement, for vision, for making a compelling commitment. To our partners – hurray, you have us back once more! To the congregation, we so look forward to becoming regulars again!

To Rev. Laura and her husband John, we welcome you to our family. For the seven of us, this has been a blessed ministry!



Board Update

May has been an active and exciting month for the Board. With the Ministerial Search Committee's (MSC) announcement about Candidating Week, the responsibilities for a successful Congregational Meeting and vote became the Board's primary responsibility. Thanks to:

- Jim Kent for his work with the MSC and Rev. Laura on the contract.
- Susan Fournier, who assumed the responsibility as Board Secretary at the April meeting and within weeks, organized an excellent process for the quorum and vote.
- All the volunteers who helped to get out our members for the vote on a busy Memorial Day weekend.
- The MSC for organizing the numerous events during candidating week.
- Those who organized the social events and managed to do it in our new Gathering Hall and with the new kitchen.

In addition, at the May meeting, the Board accomplished the following:

- Set the date for the Spring Congregational Meeting, June 18 at 11:20. This meeting is required by the By-laws to hear reports by the Minister, Treasurer, and Board President. There is one issue that will require a vote to address the role of the Board of Trustees to sign rental agreements. The Board will provide details in the official call for the Congregational Meeting. This vote will require a quorum of 20% of the members.
- Appointed Jim Willis, Jessica O'Brien and Ann Tetrault to develop policies and procedures to keep our kitchen safe while serving the needs of congregants and renters.
- Began work on recommended changes in the By-Laws to address issues of quorum clarification and procedures.
- Began planning for the transitions associated with Rev. Laura's arrival.
- Heard a report from the naming committee, Susan Fournier chair, about recommendations for naming our rental properties that honor their histories as well as renter needs.
- Acted on several personnel matters in executive session.

Finally, the Board realizes that this has been an unusual time. We have pushed hard to complete construction, move in, and call a settled minister. In the process, there has been uncertainty, stress, and a fury of committee activity.

Now, we are in a new place with our new facilities, committees and task forces completing their work and anticipating Rev. Laura's arrival. Let's take this time to celebrate, reflect, relax, and renew.

Les Solomon

WUU Board President



Share the Plate



The Share-the-Plate collection on Sunday, June 11th will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the York-James City-Williamsburg NAACP Branch. Scholarships of \$1000 are presented annually to deserving minority graduates from area high schools. Our donation will likely fund at least one full scholarship to help a student with college expenses. According to the scholarship application, "...the scholarship will be based on academic excellence, letters of recommendation, an essay, and participation in school activities, community service, and the NAACP Youth Council".

To nominate a Share the Plate recipient, email stp@wuui.org.

Using our Commercial Kitchen

We have made a big investment in our commercial kitchen so that we might, for the first time, safely prepare food for our events as well as for various rental opportunities. With that investment comes new safety responsibilities.

Effective June 9, we will lock the kitchen so that only authorized/trained persons will have access. You can become an authorized user by taking a free 3-hour class and demonstrating proficiency with its use. Jim Willis' class covers dishwasher and coffee brewing operations, range set up including grill and ovens, food handling, sanitation and safety. He is teaching this class at the following times:

Tuesday, June 6 1-4 PM

Tuesday, June 6 5-8 PM

Thursday, June 8 1-4 PM

Thursday, June 8 5-8 PM

Please sign-up at with Jim at jctc49@cox.net or by calling the office at 220-6830.

The Board appointed Jim Willis, Ann Tetrault, and Susan Fouriner to draft policies and procedures regarding our kitchen's use and safety. Comments and recommendations should be addressed to this task force.

Les Solomon

WUU Board President

Social Justice Corner

Continuing the Conversation: White Supremacy Culture Cafe Conversation and a Black Lives Matter Lemonade Stand Training

As a follow-up to our White-Supremacy Teach-In, please join us after the service on Sunday, June 11, for a Café Conversation to continue the dialogue on white privilege and white supremacy, moderated by Rio Riofrio.

In addition, Beth Haw and Jessica O'Brien will introduce the Black Lives Matter Lemonade Stand, held Saturdays on Duke of Gloucester Street, 10-12am (time change). The stand provides an opportunity for white people to answer questions and talk about WHY Black Lives Matter. Want to join us at the stand? Beth and Jessica will give tips and talking points to help us feel more confident participating. Can't make it to the training? Contact us at SJChair@wuu.org for more info or just come on out to the stand.

Youth Social Justice Book Clubs Coming soon to WUU: Calling all elementary, middle, and high school youth!

Looking to spend time with friends, beef up your summer reading list, and join kid conversations about social justice? Come and check out our new Youth Social Justice Book Clubs this summer. Beginning in June (dates and times TBD) we will meet every other week to discuss social justice-themed books in a fun and relaxed environment. We'll listen, reflect on, and explore topics that will encourage our growth as UUs and as global citizens. Anyone who is interested in being involved either as a facilitator or assistant please contact Stacy Bolling, bolling.stacy@gmail.com or Jess Sapalio, SJChair@wuu.org. A list of book selections for each age group will be available soon, so look for it on the WUU families page, in the weekly Spiral, and on the RE board outside the sanctuary. Stay tuned!!!

Membership Notes

Pathway to Membership Class

Our Pathway to Membership class is an ideal way to learn who we are as Unitarian Universalists and also a way to learn more about our WUU congregation. If you are new and would like more information about us, or are considering becoming a member, or are already a long-time member and would like a refresher, then this is the class for you. The class will be held in 2 parts, Sunday June 11 and Sunday June 18, 11:15-1pm. We will meet in Room 108 in the new building.

Lunch will be served - please let us know of any special dietary needs. Child care will also be available.

For more information, or to register, please contact David Hamilton dfhamilton108@gmail.com or Peter Mellette peter@mellettepc.com.

New Member Recognition

On June 11 we recognize new members who have recently joined our congregation. We will introduce these new members at the 10am service.

Do you have a skill or interest in talking to people, having fun, and supporting our congregation at the same time? Please see David Hamilton or Peter Mellette...there are many short term opportunities to serve. Thank you for being a part of our community.

SUUmmer FUUn 2017



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

When

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

Who

Children ages 4-17

What

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

Help

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

Sunday Dates

July 9 Garden Day

July 16 Zine Day

July 23 Food Day

July 30 Dance Day

August 6 Collaborative Art Day

August 13 Chalk Art & Giant Bubbles

August 20 Mosaic Makers Day

August 27 Dale Chihuly Day



Contact Director of Religious Education,
Austen Petersen at Austen@wuu.org for more information.

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Welcomes Acclaimed Storyteller

David Novak



David creates experiences to entertain imagination, engage emotion, and discover common ground. His storytelling is highly interactive, live, and immediate, and he will invariably surprise his audience by transforming everyday objects into magical props to enhance his story.



Storytelling Concert

Mr. Novak's Friday evening performance, "A Return to Storyland," will delight story lovers of all ages as he takes listeners "through the woods to the place where stories live" with his surprising adaptations of old stories and inventive originality. One intermission

Storytelling Concert

Friday, June 9, 2017

7:00 PM

Doors Open at 6:30pm

Recommended ages 4 and up

Tickets:

\$10	Adult
\$20	Family w/Children (ages 4-18)



**Both Performances
at Williamsburg
Unitarian
Universalists newly
expanded campus:**

**3051 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA
23185**

For tickets by phone call the WUU office at
(757) 220-6830

Online at <https://tinyurl.com/davidnovaktickets>

Purchase in person after Sunday Services



A Storyteller's Workshop

At Saturday's playful and participatory workshop, designed for storytellers ages 10 to 100+, Mr. Novak will lead exercises that challenge our thinking about stories and introduce performance strategies to manage our listener's interest through creative dramatics, character masks, voice and speech, movement and mime.

Storytelling Workshop

Saturday, June 10, 2017

9:00 AM

Doors Open at 8:30pm

Maximum of 30 Participants

Ages 10 and up

Tickets:

\$10	Adult
\$20	Family w/ Children (ages 10 and up)



Teachers, we need to thank you s'more



In the playground

Teacher thank you party

S'mores

June 25th following the service





WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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Les Solomon, President

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Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

revdaj@aol.com

Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

Office Hours

The WUU office is open:

- ◆ 8am-2pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Rev. Dave Johnson has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday -Thursday

Austen Petersen, Director of RE, has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday - Thursday.

Sometimes these times change due to meetings, vacation, etc.
Feel free to call first (757) 220-6830 to check our availability.

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name? We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact Endowment@wuu.org.

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

June Anniversaries



Flora Adams and Stewart Goddin
Don and Tina Allen
Jonathan Arries and Francie-Cate Arries
Bev and Roger Baldwin
Jamie Bartlett and Jamie Armstrong
Nancy and Fred Coy
Ruth and David Hopkinson
Lee and Paula Hougen
Liz and Roy Snyder
Trenna and Charles Tankersley
Dave and Lola Warren
Susan and John Whitley



June Birthdays

Bev Baldwin	Kaden O'Brien-James
Raga Elim	Ana Romero
Jodi Fisler	Dan Tabor
Ainsley Ford	Trenna Tankersley
Nan Hart	Ann Tetrault
Jack Hostetter	Dave Wilcox
Andrew Luchs	Jacqui Winther
Ethan Luchs	
Evelyn McKenney	
Kirby Moore	
John Nichols	