

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of
Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

September

2017

From the Desk of Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig

I've now been here for a month, and I am filled with appreciation for the warm welcome you all have shown me. For all the smiles and hugs; for the welcome basket and beautiful flowers from our Board during my very first week; for the many ways you are helping me settle in—putting furniture together for my office, introducing me to folks in the community, answering my innumerable questions about “How do we do this at WUU?” and so many more acts of thoughtfulness and graciousness—I am grateful. Thank you.

It's been a joy to begin to get to know you all better. Ministry is all about relationships, and I want to know you, just as I want you to know me. So let's get together! I'm very open to meeting folks one-on-one or in small groups. Would you like to have coffee, or take a walk, or just come by the office for a bit? I would love that. Please reach out to me and we'll find a time.

By the way, the easiest ways to reach me are by email (revlaura@wuu.org) or phone/text (703-282-8060). I'm typically available Sundays through Thursdays—Fridays and Saturdays are my days away from WUU. Of course, in an emergency, call me at any time. I'm also on Facebook & will happily accept friend requests from WUU folks. (I won't initiate FB requests, though, so as not to pressure anyone.)

So many of you have expressed to me your hopes for this congregation and your enthusiasm for what's coming next. I'm so glad. It really is a privilege to serve such a thoughtful, engaged, creative congregation. You'll see me going slow these next few months when it comes to making any major changes—right now I'm focused on getting to know you, learning how things work here at WUU, and just taking it all in. Soon enough, we will be ready to think big and get creative together!

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September Worship Schedule

September 3, 2017

10:00 am

"A People of Welcome"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

What does it mean to be a people of welcome--here at WUU, in our families, everywhere we go?

Membership Book Signing

Our Membership book will be open for signing on September 3. 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.

September 17, 2017

9:45 am & 11:15 am

"Come On In"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Welcoming the bad stuff along with the good? Seriously?! Today we explore the practice of welcoming everything into our lives--yes, everything.

September 10, 2017

****Note-Back to Two Services****

9:45 am & 11:15 am

"Come to the Well"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Today we celebrate Water Communion, a beloved Unitarian Universalist ritual in which everyone is invited to bring a bit of water from a special place, or with special meaning. We will combine the waters as a palpable sign of our connection to all life. And we'll Bless the Backpacks as our children return to school!

September 24, 2017

9:45 am & 11:15 am

"The Four Immeasurables"

Donna Drozda, Guest Speaker

Continuing the conversation that began at the August 13th service. The Four Immeasurables...these practices bring us back to life, to the active world of living with others. Regardless of whether we hold any religious beliefs, these practices can be of benefit to everyone seeking to explore their own capacity to experience unconditional love and compassion.

Share the Plate



Share the Plate contributions for Sunday, September 10, will benefit Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels. WAMOW provides home-delivered, professionally-prepared meals, as well as smiles, social interaction and a daily routine to over 100 people who are unable to obtain or prepare a hot nutritious meal for themselves as a result of aging, physical or mental impairment or the inability to shop for themselves. Volunteer drivers (including several WUUs) have been delivering midday meals Monday through Friday for 43 years. For more information, visit www.wmbgmealsonwheels.com.

In the meantime, one sort-of-change you will notice is that we're returning to monthly themes in worship. A theme is like a Big Idea, or a Big Question, rich enough to explore through many different lenses. Appropriately enough, September's theme is Welcome! (I didn't even make that one up—we'll be collaborating with the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a consortium of some 200 Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country that collaborate on theme-based resources for worship, education, and small group ministry each month.)

And of course, the work of ministry at WUU will not stop while we settle in to this new ministerial partnership. World and local events like last month's violence in Charlottesville continue to call for our engagement, and we will continue to show up. The joys and sorrows of our daily lives continue to call for our gentle care, and we will continue to hold one another.

So, dear folks of WUU, welcome to this year of ministry. I'm so excited to discover what we will do and be together.

In faith,



Labyrinth

A labyrinth is a meandering path leading to a center. There are some examples in the world more than 4,000 years old and they can be sites of rituals and ceremony, as well as tools for personal, psychological and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths can involve metaphor, sacred geometry, spiritual pilgrimage, religious practice, mindfulness, environmental art and community building. We are planning the new labyrinth in the Outdoor Space.

If you have an interest in labyrinths or the further planning of the Outdoor Space playground area and would like to be part of this discussion please contact susanwalkley@gmail.com.



Hurricane Harvey Collection



We've all been watching the terrible news about the flooding in Texas and wondering what we can do. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a recovery and relief fund, and **this Sunday, Sept. 3 we will hold a second collection** to support this fund.

Bring your checkbook or cash and please give as generously as you are able. Checks should be made payable to WUU with "Texas" in the memo line. From the UUA: "Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region, which includes the states across the southeast from Texas to South Carolina, and from most of Virginia to Florida.

If you cannot be at the service this Sunday, you can be part of the WUU collection by mailing a check to the office or calling Suzanne Huddleston, WUU Financial Administrator, at [\(757\) 220-6830](tel:7572206830) to make a credit card donation. Or, if you prefer, simply donate directly at <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>. Thank you so much for your generosity.



WUU Choir practice is each Wednesday at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome to join in the fun! For more information contact Vicki Hall vickihallva@gmail.com or Jamie Bartlett jcbart@wm.edu.

Pathway to Membership Class



Our Pathway to Membership class is an ideal way to learn who we are as Unitarians 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 October 1 and Sunday October 15, 12:30-2:45pm. We will meet in room 108 in the new wing. Rev. Laura will be joining us. 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.



**All Congregation Potluck and Retreat
Mark Your Calendars**

When: Friday September 8

Potluck Dinner (6:00)

Retreat (7:00-9:00)

Where: WUU Gathering Hall and Sanctuary

Purpose: This event, sponsored by the Board, is critical to our welcome to Rev. Laura. Kathy McGowan, our Southern District representative, will engage us in an exciting series of activities. Child care will be provided. Please RSVP to the office at office@wuu.org or call 757-220-6830.

Follow-up on Saturday: Our leaders and staff will use the information gathered during the Friday retreat to build the relationships and understandings we need to move into the future.



Way to go, community!

With big thanks to Jessica Sapalio for collecting all these supplies and getting them to their destination, everyone should be proud of the impact their generosity made for local kids. The collection of new school supplies and backpacks helped start kids off on the right foot for a new school year. Well done, everyone.

What is this Fall Retreat All About?

By now, I trust that you know we will have a fall retreat on September 8 and 9. The staff of our Southern Region manages this important program as one of the first activities when a new settled minister arrives. Kathy McGowan, known by many in our congregation, is a dynamic facilitator. She plays a critical role by helping clergy and congregations develop the staff and volunteer relationships needed to have an effective and lasting ministry.

Our retreat begins with a potluck dinner for everyone at 6:00. From 7:00-9:00, we will meet in the sanctuary to participate in the activities that Kathy will lead. I'm pretty certain it will be active, engaging, and a useful experience for all congregants.

The Saturday retreat brings together our staff and persons in key leadership positions to use the materials created during the Friday evening session. One of the interesting topics will be Myths and Norms, providing our leadership team the opportunity to reflect on what was recorded on Friday and explore how that relates to the WUU culture. There will be a working lunch, provided by WUU volunteers, followed by more group work and a short worship service.

This is important work for the congregation *and* our leadership teams. I trust you will invest the time to participate on Friday evening and thank our team of staff and dedicated leadership volunteers who will continue the work on Saturday.

Looking for other ways to help *Build our Future in Ministry and Service*?

- **Help out** with the Retreat activities needed to set up on Friday afternoon and teardown on Friday evening as well as provide food services on Saturday morning (8:30) and noon. Contact Jessica O'Brien or Pat Hoppe.
- **Sign up** to help with coffee, etc. on Sunday mornings
- **Sign up** to be a part of a Circle Dinner group (info on the web and at the information desk).
- **Discover or rediscover** where you might use your talents and interests at WUU. A handout of our primary work areas will be on the web as well as on the counter nearest to office.
- **Help beautify the campus.** We have weeds in our mulched areas. Please feel free to pull a few.



Les Solomon
WUU Board President

CONFRONTING RACISM



**END
RACISM**

On October 1st, you will have a unique opportunity: To be among the first to sign the Pledge To End Racism in the Williamsburg region. You will also have an opportunity to register for the Living the Pledge workshop to be held later in the month. By signing the Pledge, you will commit to working with others to transform the Williamsburg area into a place that treats all people with justice, equity, and compassion. By taking the Workshop you will gain the insights, tools, and support you need to carry out this transformative work. The Living the Pledge workshop is based on a small group model where people engage one-on-one in heartfelt conversations about race, ethnicity, and racism. It is all about building relationships with others who are as committed as you are.

Live the Pledge to End Racism

Have you ever had a sales clerk ignore you in order to accommodate another customer? Probably not if you are white, but this is an all too common experience for persons of color—a form of micro-aggression. How should we as white allies respond in such situations? Many of us feel helpless—we wonder, What can I do? Speaking Up Against Micro-aggressions is the subject of one of the modules that make up the workshop Living the Williamsburg Pledge to End Racism, which is being offered at WUU on Saturday, October 21 and continuing on Saturday, November 11, 2017. You will have an opportunity to sign the Williamsburg Pledge to End Racism on Sunday, October 1, and register for the two-session workshop. Are you ready to commit to making a difference?

The Mosaic Makers Team

Contact Wayne Moyer (wmoyer@widomaker.com) or Jessica O'Brien (jessicaobrien100@gmail.com) for information.

All Together Brown Bag Lunch

September's All Together Brown Bag Discussion is postponed to September 8th due to the Labor Day weekend. Come on Sept 8th to hear from our own Les Solomon and Riley Covert, a William and Mary student. Both were present in Charlottesville for the rally on August 12th. Riley was involved in witnessing the vehicle killing of Heather Heyer. Come hear them speak about their experience at noon at the Williamsburg Baptist Church across from the College on Richmond Road.





Join the WUU Team for the United Way Day of Caring Friday, September 15, 2017

Teams from throughout the Williamsburg area will spend a day giving back to the local community. Projects include landscaping, home repair, trail maintenance, painting, cleaning, organizing, and gardening. [There usually is a kick-off breakfast with food, drinks, t-shirts, and entertainment for all the volunteers.](#) Our WUU Team will go from there to our designated service project site.

Here's a video from last year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoTzuZ5XbDU&feature=youtu.be>

WUUs (and friends!) of all ages are welcome to come out and work together on this fun day!

Dave Wilcox (dwilcox@vims.edu)

Reinventing Fundraising at WUU – We Need You!



As you know things at WUU have been very busy in the past year. We have a new building, a new minister, and new tenants in both Fahs and Parker. We have been stretched time wise, money wise, and with never enough leadership to do all we aspire to do.

Last year, for a variety of reasons, we did not hold the Auction or the Yard Sale. These events are important social happenings at WUU and vital sources of revenue. Our budget last year relied on approximately \$25,000 of revenue from fundraising and we brought in zero.

This year the plan is to do better – much better, and we need to get started quickly with planning. To start we will hold two educational sessions to review the importance of our events (social, revenue, etc.), a new WUU fundraising leadership structure, and the way ahead. Our leaders will be there including Rev. Laura and Les Solomon!

And yes we “Need You!” to help. We need folks at all levels – those willing to lead or co-lead and those who just want to play supporting roles. Even if you are new to WUU this is a good place to get started! If you know someone who you think should be involved in this effort please contact them and invite them personally.

The details on the two educational sessions (45 minutes) are:

Wednesday 6 September at 6:30 PM on Campus (room 108)

Sunday 10 September at 12:30 PM right after the service (Little Sanctuary)

If you plan to attend please drop an email to Michael Coirin (michael1240@cox)

The Caring Team is Looking for YOU!

The Caring Team is looking for people who want to get involved with minimal time commitment. Sign up by contacting caring@wuu.org. Designate how you would like to be of service to others: make calls, send greetings, visit, provide a ride to doctor appointment, make and take a meal or a few hours of child care.



If you have a need or know of someone who might have one contact caring@wuu.org.



Exciting News – WUU has a Facilities Manager

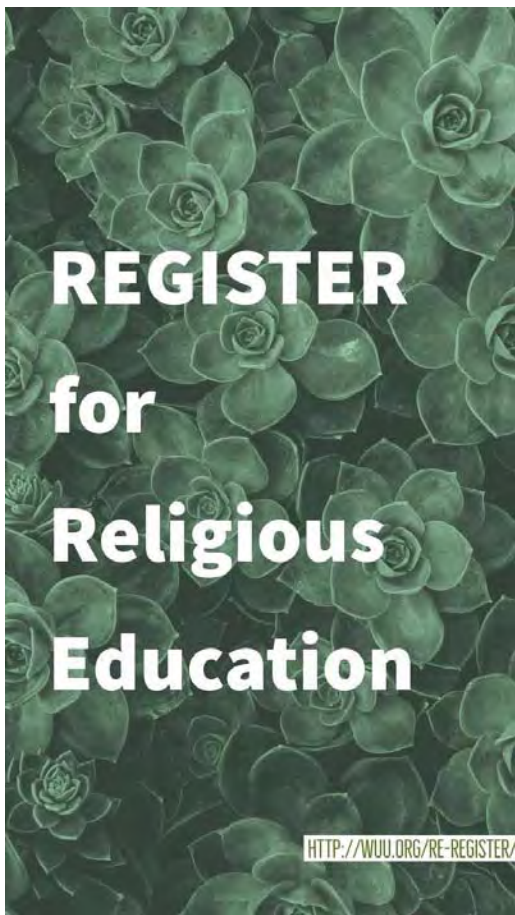
Please join us in welcoming **Joe Cross** as our new Facilities Manager. He was selected from a pool of 45 applicants by a search committee composed of Carolyn Wilson, Franz Gross, and Michael Coirin and then approved by the Board.

Joe is a long-time resident of Williamsburg with a strong desire to serve the community. He recently retired as General Manager for an Outer Banks Resort. Past work included Director of Construction and Development for Anheuser Busch and a founding partner of PMA Architects. Joe is familiar with WUU and knows several members. It's an interesting fact that Joe lives just a few doors down on the same street as Rev. Laura!

Joe will be working approximately 10 hours a week. His key roles include:

- Markets WUU facilities (including the kitchen) for rental by outside groups
- Meets with both short-term and long-term renters and manages contracts and relationships
- Develops, trains, maintains, and supervises a list of Facility Monitors who can open, close, and secure the facility.
- Manages scheduling issues in conjunction with the Program Assistant
- Maintains procedures to ensure efficient facilities operation
- Works closely with the Campus Improvement Team on the management and maintenance of our buildings and grounds
- Serves as the primary contact between WUU and the providers of contracted janitorial services

We are very lucky to have Joe on our team. He brings a deep set of skills and perspectives that will help us as we grow into our new facility/campus. If you see Joe around the campus do stop and introduce yourself.



Now is the time to register your child for religious education. Head on over to wuu.org/re-registration



Thank you to [Jessica O'Brien](#) for helping lead the Mosaic Makers Summer RE session! We had fun singing, and we celebrated multiculturalism by creating the art on the bulletin board in the hallway. Come on by to check it out!

SUUmer FUUn at WUU

We had such fun in religious education this summer! We explored different foods relating to our Unitarian Universalist Principles, painted and placed peace rocks, and united Standing On The Side of Love. We celebrated fairy gardens, "Zines," dance, and art. We even decorated "glass" vases like the artist Dale Chihuly. Way to go, everyone!

Thank you to Jennifer, Jessica, Rachel, Seth, Stacy, and Sue!
You made summer fun!



Altar creation in the butterfly room for Lower Elem. group with thanks to Jill Herman Whitten for the beautiful Torah.

Fall 2017 Religious Education at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Preschool (ages 3, 4, 5) The Rainbow Connection

A central concept of Unitarian Universalism is the seven Principles that all congregations affirm and promote. These Principles are considered to be strong values and moral guides that each of us may use to guide our lives. Although preschool children are too young to memorize the Principles, we can begin to acquaint them with the ideas behind the Principles. We can focus on the values inherent in each principle.

The Rainbow Connection uses story books for preschoolers to discuss those values inherent in the Principles and in Unitarian Universalism. Four sessions are devoted to each Principle, helping preschoolers to explore the values that unite us as UUs.

At the preschool age, children begin to understand the concepts of justice and fairness and begin to learn about what is “right” and “wrong”, or “good” and “bad”. Story books are chosen to help illustrate the values supported by parents.

Because socialization and comfort are important goals for this age, each class contains a fun craft project, time for songs and games, and time for free play with friends.

Lower Elementary (grades K, 1, 2) Picture Book World Religions

Picture Book World Religious introduces world religions through stories and encourages young children to explore the differences and similarities to their own lives. We'll use beautiful picture books to introduce young children to Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism in a gentle and respectful way. These books teach about world religions by telling a story. The stories illustrate concepts such as the value of wisdom and loyalty in Hinduism, the importance of family in Islam, and the practice of compassion for all living beings in Buddhism. Come join us!

Upper Elementary (grades 3, 4, 5) Windows and Mirrors

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

Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) Jedi Academy

The philosophies of *Star Wars* have been explored, examined, and adopted by many. Some even consider “Jediism” to be their legitimate religion, though it incorporates beliefs from many different philosophies. The Jedi believe in the 'Living Force', a spiritual presence that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds all the matter in the universe together.

If the program were summed up in one word, it would be “Mindfulness.” The Jedi students learn to pay close attention to their experience of themselves and the world around them. These are powerful concepts for adults, youth, and children

Continued on next page

YRUU (High School; Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

Principled Music is a Unitarian Universalist offering that helps participants develop critical thinking skills while having fun listening to music.

Together we can

- Consider social justice issues and the ways in which our faith can help us understand our values.
- Understand ways in which the right of conscience calls us to do what's right, even if there are possible negative consequences.
- Examine how our choices affect others around us, as well as ourselves.

Nursery

We have a professionally led and coordinated nursery program to help keep the youngest children (infant through age 3) safe and engaged with age appropriate toys. 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 in the summer from 9:45am to 11:30am. In the fall we provide nursery care during our second service opening at 11:00am through 12:30pm.



The next Step Up Meeting will be on Wednesday September 13th at 6 PM. Childcare provided.



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Les Solomon, President

wuuprez@gmail.com

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig

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Office Hours

The WUU office is open:

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

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.)



September Birthdays

September Anniversaries

- Linda and Fred Bergmann
- Michael and Ivonne Luchs
- Deborah Jane Wells and Wilson Abney
- Beth Pepper and Lisa Williams
- Elizabeth Wilkins and Jacques Van Montfrans

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| Brenner Beard | Natalie Miller-Moore |
| Lexie Berning | Beth Morgan |
| Francie Cate-Arries | Amelia Russell |
| Suzanne Dorsett | Kenneth Schmidt |
| Roger Guernsey | Dave Warren |
| Phyllis Hostetter | Grayson Williams |
| Phyllis Jay | |
| Sydney Lord | |