



WUU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

JULY/AUGUST 2018

WUU B&B
News
Inside



What's New at WUU?

BY REV. LAURA HORTON-LUDWIG

Welcome to summer at WUU! While we savor the warmer weather and the chance to move a little more slowly, there is still quite a lot going on as we get ready for the fall. Let me give you a sneak preview of what's coming up.

This fall, we'll offer new opportunities to connect with fellow WUUs, work on your own spiritual life, and serve the community:

- **Small group ministry** signups are coming this fall! We'll be launching several small groups connected to the Soul Matters monthly worship themes and led by trained facilitators. Look for signup opportunities in late September.
- Have you heard about the new **Hospitality Ministry**? Each Sunday, it takes a village (or at least a lot of volunteers) to welcome visitors, serve as ushers, and provide refreshments. Beginning this fall, each congregant, from preschoolers to age 100, will become part of one of seven teams to provide these welcoming activities for one or two months during the year. More information will be coming soon, beginning with a café conversation after the service on July 8. Please plan to attend to find out and discuss the details. It's going to be a fun, WUU family undertaking.

We've also been noticing that on some Sundays, the parking lot is getting pretty full, and the sanctuary and religious classrooms are too. This is a great problem to have. Our board and I believe this is the right time to think seriously about how we can make more room for newcomers and long-time members alike to participate on Sunday mornings. To that end, this summer we'll be putting together a task force to study our **two worship services** and make recommendations on how we can keep on making room for all who are drawn to this congregation and its message of radical love, social engagement, and warm community.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, we're also making significant **IT improvements** to help congregants connect and work together more easily:

- Many of you have been asking for a better, more accurate congregational **directory**. It's almost here! In August, we'll be rolling out a new congregational software package that will include an always-up-to-date and easily printable directory, easy signups for classes, and online giving. There's also a smartphone app that will let you call and text fellow congregants directly from the app. To preview the software, visit <https://www.breezechms.com/>.
- We'll also be setting up Google Drive **file-sharing** for all our ministry teams and committees in time for the start of the program year in September.

You'll be hearing more soon about all these initiatives. In the meantime, please thank our hard-working staff members when you see them, and our many dedicated lay leaders too. I'm excited about where we're headed together, and I hope you will be too.

Of course, in the midst of much that is new, we will also continue much that is familiar and important. We will gather for worship and learning, we will care for one another, and we will continue the work of justice and service which is so vital in these times. As we move forward together, I thank each and every one of you for the faith, love, hard work, and good will that you bring to this congregation and to our world.

In faith,

Rev. Laura



P.S. I'll be away July 16-August 5 for some vacation and study time. See you when I get back if not before!

July Worship Schedule

JULY 1

10:00 am

"Language of Music"
Eric Thomas and Helen Wolfson,
Guest Worship Leaders

"Music can evoke a range of strong emotions (including joy, sorrow, wistfulness, elation) and powerful images. In our service we use our music to lead the congregation on a journey through a variety of emotions and images. We meet the congregation with a musical piece of medium energy that evokes an image that is not emotionally charged. From there, we use our music and commentary to take them through several emotional steps to a place of deep contemplation. From there, we head back up through laughter and elation to celebration." –Eric Thomas

The WUU membership book is open for signing today by those who have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2, or are transferring from another UU Congregation, or are a young person who has completed the coming of age course, we welcome you to come forward at the end of the service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU. We invite current members and friends to witness the signing and to meet our newest members.

JULY 8

10:00 am

**"Your Sacred Texts:
Ruth Meets The Ingalls Family"**
Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Families have been migrating for as long as there have been families. What can we learn about immigration today by looking back to the ancient story of Ruth and the American pioneer tales of Laura Ingalls Wilder? Today's service kicks off the ""Your Sacred Texts"" summer series, based on the texts you told me you hold dear.

JULY 15

10:00 am

**"Animal Blessing Service:
The Spiritual Lives of Animals"**
Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Calling all dogs, cats, bunnies, guinea pigs, and creatures of every kind! Today we welcome pets of all kinds to our sanctuary for a special family-friendly Blessing of the Animals service, as we celebrate the wild and beautiful spirituality of our animal neighbors, no less real than our own. Just a few reminders: please only bring animals who would enjoy getting out and who are fully vaccinated, and make sure they are restrained safely and compassionately. If your pet would rather stay at home, you are invited to bring a photo to be blessed instead.

JULY 22

10:00 am

"America the Beautiful"
Annette Marquis, Guest Speaker

On the 123rd anniversary of Katharine Lee Bates's penning of America the Beautiful, we are called to reflect on the meaning of America. What does our Unitarian Universalist faith tell us about the promise of this country? How do we make that promise real in the face of so many forces working to destroy it? In this service, we'll explore the aspiration and possibilities for America the Beautiful.

JULY 29

10:00 am

"Gather the Spirit"
Eric Thomas and Helen Wolfson,
Guest Worship Leaders

"This service deals with the elusive word "spirit" -- a word that is often bandied about in UU congregations, but seem to mean different things to different people. In this service we visit the concept of spirit from a humanist perspective and discover that the word embodies a core concept that can be meaningful to many UUs." – Eric Thomas

August Worship Schedule

We are currently on our summer schedule with one service only at 10 am, continuing through Labor Day.

AUGUST 5

10:00 am

"As If I Were You"

John Whitley, Guest Speaker

Commitment to, creation of and engagement in empathic moments are essential to becoming inclusive and multicultural personally and organizationally. Through guided readings, selected music and personal reflection, WUU member John Whitley will show the intentionality of empathy as the essence of change and growth.

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AUGUST 12

10:00 am

"Your Sacred Texts:

From Narnia to Desiderata"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

In a turbulent world of challenges, surprise, struggle, and hope, what does it mean to live wisely and well? We'll explore a story from C.S. Lewis's Narnia about a boy who did not want to have adventures, and we'll take time to reflect personally on Max Ehrmann's much-loved poem "Desiderata." Today's service continues the "Your Sacred Texts" summer series, based on the texts you told me you hold dear.

AUGUST 19

10:00 am

"Your Sacred Texts:

Micah's Call and Anne's Prayer"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Our congregational covenant calls us "To try to live morally and deepen our spiritual lives." Easier said than done! Today we draw encouragement from the ancient prophet Micah, who calls us "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." And from Anne of Green Gables, whose unconventional prayer life has quite a lot to teach us, even today. Our service today continues the "Your Sacred Texts" summer series, based on the texts you told me you hold dear.

AUGUST 26

10:00 am

"Your Sacred Texts: Everyday Holiness"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Today we train ourselves to look for the sacred right here, right now, inspired by the poetry of the Grateful Dead and former U.S. Poet Laureate Richard Wilbur. This service concludes (at least, for now) the ""Your Sacred Texts"" summer series, based on the texts you told me you hold dear.



Memorial Service for Philomene Hood

All are invited to attend a memorial service for Philomene Hood on Saturday, July 14 at 4:30 pm in the WUU Sanctuary and Gathering Hall.

Share the Plate for July



HOSPICE HOUSE
& Support Care of Williamsburg

The Share the Plate contribution on Sunday, July 8, will benefit Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg. For over 35 years, this nonprofit charitable organization has enhanced the quality of living for individuals facing the last phases of life and has supported the people they love. Support services are provided to individuals living in Williamsburg, James City County, or upper York County. Since 2002, Hospice has maintained a four-bed facility to provide short-term residential care and end-of-life support. Use of this residential care also offers a respite for caregivers. For more information on this agency, visit www.williamsburghospice.org.

Share the Plate for August



The Share the Plate contribution on Sunday, August 12 will benefit the Avalon Center for Women and Children, serving our local community. Avalon provides shelter and support to those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. By offering tools for safety, self-sufficiency, and empowerment, Avalon works to break the cycle of abuse and helps create a positive future for its clients. For more information on the Center, please visit www.avaloncenter.org. To contact Avalon for help in a domestic violence situation, contact Avalon at (757) 258-5051. If you would like to volunteer at Avalon, contact the outreach center (757) 258-5022.

More on Share the Plate

Here's a tip for Share the Plate contributors: When writing your check for an STP recipient agency, make it payable to "WUU", with a simple "STP" on the Memo line. This will ensure your donation is properly allocated. If you're not able to attend on Share the Plate Sunday, or forget your checkbook or later decide you'd like to do more, we assure you late donations are welcome, up to a couple of weeks after STP Sunday. You can drop your check in the plate the following Sunday or deliver it to the WUU office.

For more information on the Share the Plate program or to nominate a recipient agency, email stp@wuu.org.

Board Report

ALL ARE CALLED: FY1819 and beyond

“All Are Called” was the theme of the General Assembly in Kansas City. The highlights of FY1819 reflects our answers to this call:

- Rev. Laura arrives and starts her ministry with us on the Charlottesville weekend.
- Joe Cross is hired to help us manage our facilities—now and into the future.
- Regional staff person Kathy McGowan joins our leadership teams to launch Rev. Laura’s ministry at WUU.
- We grew in our understanding of how to provide safe environments for all at WUU.
- We welcomed many new friends and members as they came seeking WUU’s Beloved Community.
- Financially, we ended the year in the black and we developed a progressive program for the future that is projected to be in the black—the first time in several years.
- With our Building our Future program behind us, we filled our leadership and support positions with energetic and experienced personnel.
- We shared our values with the community at the lemonade stand, Moral Mondays, the Village, local forums and protests, Washington DC, Charlottesville, Richmond and other venues.
- We developed and the Board approved a 3-year Strategic Plan **Here** that we will begin to implement this month!

The Strategic Plan provides a map to the ways we can answer this call. Yet, it is a working document. The events in the news about children being taken away from their parents, the decisions on social justice actions reached at our General Assembly in Kansas City (immigration and end of ICE, incarnation reform, etc.), the moving sermons and lectures at GA, and the ongoing work of our own WUU teams in the last few weeks are reminders that Love Resists so we must be creative, flexible, and compassionate as we seek the right balance between plans and emerging opportunities/needs.

I am confident that we will be guided by our principles and hearts as, together, we come to realize that the GA’s theme “All Are Called” means we will be called in new, sometimes challenging, ways in FY1819.



Les Solomon
WUU Board President

FUNdraising

Please Don't Bypass This Message

FY 2017-18 was an exciting year for our fundraising activities. Our coffers increased by more than \$30,700 thanks to the auction, yard sale, B&B visitor stays, Dave Robbins' concert, and the Amazon book sales. That's \$7000+ over the expected income from such sources. Thanks to each one of you who made these events and activities so successful!

Now it's time to think of this new FY: how can we top this?

Of course, the auction, yard sale, and B&B will continue under their current leaders. But new leaders will need to be in training. Want to give it a shot for FY 2019/20? Let us (see below) or the current leader know – or just show up at a next planning session.

How about new ideas? Got some good ones that will take our principles and values out into the community and give us funds to reach out even more? Please give your ideas to any one of our committee members. We'll sit down and talk with you about how it can get going. There's no deadline on ideas – they are welcome anytime!

Thanks from your Fundraising Committee: Carolyn Wilson, Larry Ventis, Pat Russo (welcome, Pat, as a new member), Tamra Elim-Durden, and Lola Warren (chair).



New Class Forming - Lay Pastoral Care Associate (LPCA) Training

The current team of 11 WUU Lay Pastoral Care Associates is ending its first three year term of service. Six have chosen to stay on, while three have asked to step down and two have moved over to full-time duties on the Caring Team. The CT back up the minister as the first responders to immediate and short term crises and acute needs among the congregation. LPCAs, on the other hand, have special training to offer longer term pastoral support to more enduring or more complex UU adversities, under the direction of the minister.

At this point it is time to solicit applications from those interested in volunteering for replacement LPCA positions. Applicants must be members of WUU, must agree to about 10 hours of training by the minister in the Fall, must subscribe to strict confidentiality codes, and must be prepared to offer their time and energy at roughly six hours per month for an expected tour of three years. Most service time would be scheduled at your convenience. Applicants are invited to fill out the form available **Here** or you may pick up a hard copy in the office, and submit it to co-leaders David Hopkinson or Jane Reilly. All who apply will be interviewed in early Fall by the minister and the co-leaders, who will select members of the new training class

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jamison Miller came to Williamsburg in 2011 after completing his BA in Chicago and MA in Vancouver – both in urban geography – experiences that spurred his commitment to working for socio-spatial justice. Jamison is now finishing his Ph.D. at the W&M School of Education, where he has been researching the open education movement which is working to contest the constraints of copyright and make education more accessible for all. He started working at Lumen Learning this summer, helping faculty to adopt open educational resources at colleges and universities across the northeastern US. Both of his children, August (7) and Lulu (4) are active in the Navigators group (how we first heard about WUU) and the RE program. We're all excited about enriching our spiritual lives through engagement with the WUU community and beyond. We've already felt so welcomed and are grateful to be here.



Joe Galano taught Psychology at the College of William and Mary for 33 years, specializing in the area of child abuse and neglect prevention. He spent two decades partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia/America. Although he has lived in various places in the U.S. for his education, including New Mexico, Colorado, Ohio, and New Jersey, he's a proud Brooklynite who had concerns about moving to Williamsburg in 1977 when the only Italian restaurant listed in the yellow pages was Pizza Hut. **Beverly Peterson** grew up in Fairfax, lived in Smithfield, graduated from the College of William and Mary (three times) and taught English in high schools and at Thomas Nelson Community College, Old Dominion University, Penn State Fayette Campus, and William and Mary. Her specializations were American Literature--particularly literature by and about enslaved people--and research writing about global warming. Both Bev and Joe were recognized by their institutions for excellence in teaching. One factor that drew them to this community was seeing WUU members at many rallies and events advocating for political, social justice, and child development causes that they care about. Another was having many WUU friends who never cajoled them to visit, leading Bev and Joe to figure that the members were trying to keep a good thing to themselves. All of these friends have made Bev and Joe feel very welcome.

WUU B & B is Back!

WUU is back in the B&B business. Fourteen of you have signed up to host, either routinely or occasionally, for fellow UUs coming to the area for short-term stays as we look to provide additional WUU income. Our first guests are coming at the end of June. But we want more.

How are we spreading the word besides this newsletter? Myriad ways: We now have a B&B link on our WUU website, have put an ad in the June UU World, have joined UU're Home, where our listing will continue for a year, plan to add info to Facebook, and are forming partnerships with a few other UU congregations, exchanging B&B information through our congregational newsletters.

How can you help? Needless to say, we'd welcome additional hosts. Contact Kerry Mellette at **bnb@wuu.org** if you need a host form. But what about your overflow guests? All those friends and family members descending on you at one time for a family reunion or Grand Illumination - or out of the blue? Or perhaps your one-time guest bedroom is now your office and even single guests are too many? Consider our B&B possibilities rather than directing them to a time-share rental or local hotel. With WUU hosts, your visitors will be welcomed warmly, accommodated in a family setting, and provided with reliable area information, all at better-than-market prices. (We are asking for a \$75/night/room donation.) We hope to hear from you! Check out our WUU website link: [<https://wuu.org/wuu-bed-breakfast/> or contact Kerry Mellette, B&B Coordinator at **bnb@wuu.org**



GET-A-WAY TO CHARLOTTESVILLE!

Bed & Breakfast Program in Charlottesville, VA: Do you, your family, or UU friends need a place to stay, while visiting in the Charlottesville area? The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church – Unitarian Universalist (TJMC) has Bed & Breakfast program, which provides comfortable, friendly, affordable accommodations with fellow UUs. Proceeds help support TJMC. For details, check out the TJMC website at <http://www.uucharlottesville.org/about-us/tjmc-uu-bed-breakfast-program/> or email **bandb@uucharlottesville.org**.

There is so much to see in the Charlottesville area – Monticello, Ashlawn-Highland, Montpelier, University of Virginia, the Jefferson African American Heritage Center, Charlottesville's Downtown Mall, Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Whether coming for the history, a family vacation, a business trip or a UU event or service, or a UVA sports weekend or graduation, the TJMC B&B program is a great way to go. Come visit us!



You Are Invited

Anne Stevens and Clay Blanton invite you, the WUU congregation, to join us in our marriage ceremony.

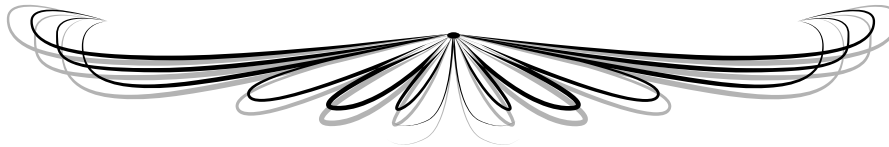
Date: July 28, 2018

Place: WUU Sanctuary

Time: 3:00 in the afternoon.

Cake and beverage reception follows.

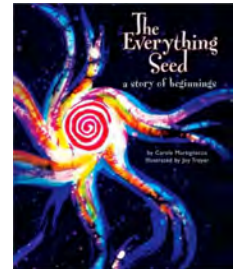
No gifts; your presence is our present.



Religious Education News

Some folks have asked about the story that Austen Petersen read for the creativity service on June 17. The book is called *The Everything Seed*, and here's the link for those who are interested:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/everything-seed-carole-martignacco/1102785136>



Way to go Social Justice Book Club!

Have you seen the newest bulletin board in the religious education wing? Come check it out, and it'll give you a tour of the books the kids have been reading for their Social Justice Book Club.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER 2018

- When: July 1 through August 26.
- Who: Children ages 4-17 (nursery care is available for infants through age 3.)
- What: Summer Fun is an opportunity for kids (and adults) to get creative!



SCHEDULE

- July 1 Garden Day
- July 8 Noah and the Ark
- July 15 Blessing of the Animals Service
- July 22 Use the Ark-bring stuffed animals
- July 29 Social Justice Book Club
- August 5 Mosaic Makers Day
- August 12 Participants' Choice
- August 19 Storytelling and Illustrations
- August 26 Honor Water
- September 2 Labor Day-No RE
- September 9 Ingathering (water communion) everybody worships together

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE SUMMER FUN A SUCCESS

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

CONTACT AUSTEN PETERSEN,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
austen@wuu.org

