



WUU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

OCTOBER 2018



A People of Sanctuary

BY REV. LAURA HORTON-LUDWIG

This month our theme is this: What does it mean to be a people of Sanctuary?

In worship, on Oct. 7 we'll explore the contemporary "Sanctuary movement" to protect vulnerable immigrants. All are encouraged to come to a café conversation after the second service to learn about how WUUs can help. Then on Oct. 23 we'll consider ancient spiritual teachings on creating "sanctuary" for ourselves within our own minds and hearts.

And we are beginning a new and important conversation about the Sunday morning experience of being in our own WUU sanctuary and religious education classrooms. Right now, our 11:15 Sunday service is pretty crowded. Many of us love the energy of so many people coming together. As your minister, it's wonderful to look out on a "full house" each morning. But in some ways, we are a little too crowded. Sometimes latecomers have trouble finding seats together in the sanctuary. And even in our spacious new religious education classrooms, we're starting to experience some crowding.

At our 9:45 service, on the other hand, average attendance is hovering around 15 people. While some visitors enjoy the intimate, quiet feel of the service, others are put off by the small size of the group. Meanwhile, it typically takes two professional staff (me and Dave Robbins) and upwards of 10 volunteers (worship associate, AV tech, ushers, greeters, other hospitality volunteers) to pull off the service. I am not convinced this model is sustainable.

Our board and I believe the time has come to get creative! We want each service here at WUU to be vital, sustainable, and welcoming to newcomers. In that spirit, we have convened a “Two-Services Task Force” to study what’s working well and not so well on Sundays, to explore ways of making things better, and ultimately to recommend changes in our Sunday-morning model to the board and me. The members of the task force are Eva Burke, John Chowning, Lesa Craig, Rachel Delbos, Paul Luchsinger, Austen Petersen, Janna Roche, and me.

And we will need your help! This fall, the task force will be setting up focus groups, one-on-one interviews, surveys, and congregation-wide conversations about the Sunday morning experience. Please participate as you can. We need everybody’s feedback to make the very best decision about how to move forward. With your help, we will make our own WUU sanctuary even more welcoming to the countless people who need our message of love and justice, and the community of belonging that we cherish so much. May it be so.

In faith,

Rev. Laura



October Worship Schedule

OCTOBER 7

9:45 am & 11:15 am
"The Sanctuary Movement:
How Are We Called?"
Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Many congregations today have revived the ancient practice of sanctuary to shelter vulnerable neighbors in our midst: undocumented immigrants at acute risk of deportation. What's happening and how can we help?

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.

OCTOBER 14

9:45 am & 11:15 am
Guest Speaker
Connie Goodbread, Acting Co-Lead of the
UUA Southern Region Congregational Life
Staff Team

OCTOBER 21

9:45 am & 11:15 am
"A Sanctuary in Your Heart"
Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Even when life gets hard and messy, we always have a sanctuary within ourselves--a refuge in our own hearts. Today we explore teachings and practices that help us find that sanctuary.

OCTOBER 28

Dia de Los Muertos
10:30am Come together in the Gathering Hall
for guaguas de pan and colada morada
11:15am One intergenerational service

Join us in a day to remember and reflect on our loved ones and ancestors we have lost to the winds of time. We invite you to bring their picture and fresh flowers for the altar. Those who are interested in bringing fresh baked bread at 10:30am please contact austen@wuu.org.

From the Board President by Jessica O'Brien

This has been an eventful first month as your new WUU President. Then again, September is always the beginning of the busy time for everyone in addition to the start of hurricane season. I have big shoes to fill, following Les Solomon. Thankfully he is right by my side as Vice-President while I get oriented.

Hurricane Florence threw a wrench in our schedule, causing the office to close and Sunday services to be cancelled. We provided accommodation for more than fifty Red Cross shelter volunteers who were very grateful. Many commented on how beautiful and clean our buildings are in contrast to other places they had been assigned previously. After a couple of days, the Red Cross moved on to North Carolina and the hurricane passed us by with little effect, thank goodness. Who knew?

This fall, the Board has been wrestling with questions about the future of WLT, Williamsburg Area Learning Tree, which has been experiencing financial difficulties and came to the WUU Board for funding. We have agreed to finance only the fall semester. What does the future hold for WLT? It might decide to align more closely with our WUU mission and Strategic Plan by weaving into our WUU Religious Education program, focusing on classes connected to spirituality, such as the present Meditation and Yoga offerings. Or, perhaps WLT would benefit from becoming independent of WUU, establishing its own non-profit organization in the community. These are some of the questions that members of the WLT and WUU boards will consider over the next few months.

Do you attend the early morning service on Sundays or do you prefer the 11:15 service? Maybe you attend them both from time to time? A task force has been struck to consider the best use of our two services and we heartily welcome your ideas. Send them to office@wuu.org with "Two Services" on the subject line.

Our new church software rollout is moving along with congregational leaders getting up to speed. It's called BREEZE and you will be hearing more about it in the future. With Ellyn Stephens, our wonderful Program Assistant, moving on, member volunteers have offered to keep the implementation process going. Thank you, volunteers.

WUU goes solar! We've initiated a project to install solar panels on our building and contributions are rolling in. Here's your chance to help WUU become energy self-sufficient and support your own piece of a WUU solar panel. Watch for news in the Spiral and Newsletter about how to get involved.

By the way, the WUU Annual Auction planning is beginning in October. Lesa Craig, Ruth Hopkinson, Kim Barbarji, Angela Surber and I make up the Auction Team. Stay tuned for exciting information about the theme and timing of this fun event. The first organizing meeting will take place this month. If you are interested in becoming involved, email me at WUUPrez@wuu.org.



Share the Plate for October

On Sunday, October 14, we are introducing a newcomer to the Share the Plate lineup - the STP recipient will be **Hampton Roads Refugee Relief (HR3)**. Their mission is "to promote self-sufficiency and wellness of refugees resettling in Hampton Roads." The organization provides refugees with additional education, links them with employers, assists with housing and transportation, familiarizes them with available social services, assists with medical care and more. These activities ease the transition to the United States and make sure refugees have every opportunity to succeed and become productive members of society.



HR3 is a relatively young organization, obtaining its non-profit status about one year ago. It has operated thus far on donations from several individuals and the good will of volunteers (including WUUs) determined to welcome and assist these refugee families to the best of their abilities with limited resources. Each Sunday, families, primarily from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and Morocco, meet at a Boys and Girls Club in Newport News to participate in Islamic studies/prayer in a safe environment, learn English and share a provided lunch, all thanks to dedicated volunteers. There are also special speakers and events, such as immigration attorneys and health fairs. Please give generously to this organization and show WUU support for the safety and well-being of these new members of our community and to send the strong message that they are welcome here! For more information, contact Kim Barbarii: kbarbarii@cox.net.



We have a wonderful opportunity to help lift the spirits of some of our William and Mary Unitarian Universalist Circle members as exam time comes around. If you would like to participate, please drop a donation for a care package for a student who needs some calm and encouragement.

Needed items:

- Home baked cookies (no peanuts, please) labeled and in packages of 6
- Travel size packs of tissues
- Dental floss
- Notation flags
- Mints
- Fun pens or pencils
- Slinky or other small toy
- A hand written (or drawn!) note of encouragement

We have about 20 students in need of a care package.

Please drop off donations in the office at Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists by Wednesday December 5.

Contact Austen Petersen at austen@wuu.org.

WUU Hospitality Ministry Officially Goes into Effect October 7th!

The September beta test of this new ministry is drawing to an end, giving the coordinators and team leaders the opportunity to try it out. Thanks to all who helped with that.

Now it officially begins with Team 1 taking the reins for October. If you are on Team 1, we hope you will be part of this, offering to join in however it works for you. This is an opportunity to get to know fellow WUU members and friends, welcome newcomers, and have fun sharing in the work of our congregation.

If you are not on Team 1, just sit back and enjoy participating in the services of the month. You may have done some of these tasks in the past and wish to offer your expertise. This is well and good, but please permit the team members to take over their tasks of the morning and do what they have volunteered to do.

If you have not received a letter inviting you to a Hospitality Team, please let us know at hospitality@wuu.org. You will be sent information about this ministry, an invitation to join a specific team and the name of the team leader, with contact information.

Already, there is a new sense of excitement and energy. May it continue to be so as all members, friends and guests experience this warm, enthusiastic welcome, as worshippers and team doers.

The Hospitality Ministry Coordinators (Dave Neiman, Donna Stanford, Lola Warren, Dave Wilcox, and Carolyn Wilson)

Tidewater Cluster Registration is Open!



Thanks to our registration team, registration is now open for this year's Tidewater Cluster which will be hosted by the WUU on Saturday, October 13th!

Our steering committee has worked very diligently to design a day that should meet the interests and needs of many within our communities. We have 15 different workshops planned, and Connie Goodbread will be our keynote speaker and a workshop presenter. Rev. Laura, Jessica O'Brien, John Whitley, Ben Thacker-Gwaltney, David and Linda Lane-Hamilton, Allen Cooke, and Les Solomon join with other UU's across Tidewater as workshop leaders.

The link to registration, our workshop offerings, and schedule can be found both at our website:

<https://wuu.org/> or

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/WilliamsburgUnitarianUniversalists/TidewaterClusterRegistrationForm>

Let's make this a day of transformation, fellowship, and UU joy!



Building a Vocal Community Workshop Returns

GREAT NEWS! Dr. Ysaye Barnwell and the "Building a Vocal Community" workshop will return to Williamsburg on **January 25-26, 2019.**

On a frosty weekend in January 2017, many of you enjoyed this fun event--singing and learning together in the African American tradition--and asked for an opportunity to do it again. It's happening! Come join us next January. The cost for admission has been reduced this year, thanks to generous financial support from the William & Mary Music Department, the Lemon Project, and the 100th Anniversary of Women at William & Mary: \$30 for general admission and \$10 for students. As in 2017, the event will begin on Friday evening (6-9pm) and continue on Saturday (9am-4pm), with lunch provided. Registration is now open at <https://williamsburgvocalcommunity.eventbrite.com>. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested.

Jodi Fisler, Wayne Moyer, Jamie Bartlett and Jessica O'Brien, organizers from WUU

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Deb Snyder is a rare native-born Washingtonian and **Kirk Starr** grew up in southern Pennsylvania. They met in a college computer class when Kirk caught Deb copying off his homework. Of course, it was love at first sight. Deb switched careers mid-life from social work to IT project management working for a local government. Kirk was a computer engineer and a homeless shelter volunteer in the DC area. After retiring, Deb and Kirk pulled up stakes and joined the US Peace Corps as “vintage volunteers” serving in rural Jamaica as literacy specialists.

After leaving the Peace Corps, they moved to Williamsburg. Kirk is currently serving on the City’s Board of Zoning Appeals and as a volunteer costumed historical interpreter at a local historic site. Deb volunteers at the Williamsburg Regional Library. They are participants in the College of William and Mary’s Global Friends program and have been mentoring students and families from Korea, Scotland, and China.

Their son and his family live in the Washington DC area. Kirk’s extended family lives in Virginia.

They feel blessed to have been welcomed into the WUU community and to meet people who share like values, beliefs and commitments to making life better for all.

Do you know WALT?



WALT is back for the Fall 2018 semester from Oct 1 - Nov 18. Please take a look at our new website at www.williamsburgarealearningtree.org! There are many new courses as well as old favorites. WALT has been connected to WUU since 2002 and needs your support as we are making some changes behind the scenes. We especially need the congregation's help to promote and publicize WALT. Please forward the website to people you think might be interested and like the Facebook page. Send a course you are interested in to a friend. Take a class with a friend! We will back in the Spring with even more excitement! Is there something you love that you could teach? Is there some information you could share with your community? Think about teaching a class for the Spring semester - we love new topics and new teachers! If you have any questions or would like assistance in designing a class, please contact Rayven at walt.williamsburg@gmail.com.