

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON

BEACON NOVEMBER 2016

OFFICE HOURS

MINISTER

TUESDAY 11AM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY 11AM – 4PM

THURSDAY 11AM – 4PM

AND BY APPOINTMENT

DIR. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUNDAY 9 AM TO 1 PM

TUESDAY 12 PM TO 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 12 PM TO 6 PM

AND BY APPOINTMENT

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

TUESDAY 1PM - 6PM

WEDNESDAY 1PM – 6PM

THURSDAY 1PM - 6PM

FRIDAY 1PM – 6PM

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nov 6

Rev. Cheryl

Nov 13

Rev. Cheryl

Nov 20

Rev. Deb Cayer, Lead
Minister, Eno River
Unitarian Universalist
UUCWNC Choir

Nov 27

Worship Team



MINISTER'S CORNER

The Fall season is upon us. Time to put away our short pants and sandals. The morning air is nippy. Some of us are checking our heating systems knowing that soon they'll be put to use. Leaves are falling from trees and the earth is preparing for its slumber time.

This is the hardest time of the year for me. The leaves turning color remind me of the saddest time of my life, and the sorrow I felt that time long ago returns when I see those beautiful colors. It was in fall that two of the most important people in my life, my grandmother and mother, died within one month of each other. I still recall the long ride to cemetery to return my mother's body to the earth and how we were in the peak of Fall foliage. On that sunny day, the earth was ablaze with color and yet I could not enjoy it. It has been hard to enjoy it ever since that day.

I, as so many of us do, carry around, with me, the grief of loss. It is part of my being. It will never go away. It does not consume my life, but it is a part of it and it demands that I recognize it. There comes a day each year, I call it the Day of Tears, when I cry. All day I cry. And I name the people whom I have lost and grieve. It comes in the Fall, and I'm not quite sure when it's going to come, but it comes each year. And I do not resist the day, I embrace it. It comes when the leaves have turned.

Sorrow is a part of our lives. Each of us has known sorrow. The only question for us is what shall we do when sorrow is upon us? Shall we run from it, or embrace it, knowing that it is a natural part of our existence. Embracing our sorrow is not the same as wallowing in it. It is recognizing that it is a part of who we are - feeling, loving human beings. If we never love anyone or anything then we will never know sorrow of love's loss.

Too often we want only to deal with happy feelings, the difficult ones like sorrow we want to push aside. But for us to be fully human is to recognize all of the feelings we have, the good and the not so good. Acknowledging our difficult feelings also makes us more appreciative of good feelings. Without sorrow can we really know true joy?

This month our theme is Sorrow. How do we weave our sorrow into our lives so that it does not hang like a loose thread threatening to unravel us? How do we embrace sorrow? As the holidays approach sorrow may be part of what many people are feeling. How do we cope with feeling sorrow at a time when the society says we should be feeling joy? These are just a few of the questions that we will explore during this month.

Let's be fully human together – filled with both joy and sorrow. This is why we are here together, to learn how to be fully human.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Cheryl

The Board of Trustees: The “MVP” of the Congregation

No, the Board is not the “Most Valuable Player” at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington – that designation belongs to all members and friends who make our Congregation a welcoming, spiritual home with your time, talents, and love. Instead, the Board’s role as an MVP is in guiding the Congregation’s Mission, Vision and Policy. Our primary purpose is to put policies and a vision in place which will ensure our Congregation thrives and is able to achieve its mission. As such, we are committed to continuing the policy-based governance work initiated at the board level a number of years ago. We already have begun work on a Policy Manual which will ultimately outline our governing structure, clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Minister, and provide guidance for the work of the Congregation. The development of these governing policies is so integral to the role of the Board that we will designate time during each of our monthly meetings to work on them.

In addition, this year the Board has planned extra working sessions to begin the process of creating a vision of what should be accomplished in pursuit of the Congregation’s mission. Once governing policies are in place and the vision is clearly articulated, the Minister will take leadership in creating a strategic plan to delineate how this vision will be realized.

Our Congregation’s Mission is at the heart of all we do. Mission. Vision. Policy.

We are committed to communicating regularly with the Congregation about our progress towards these goals. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings (fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary) - come see policy creation in action! Meeting minutes and other updates are posted on the Board of Trustees bulletin board in Dobkin Hall and on the website. Contact us with any questions at board@uufwilmington.org.

Our first quarterly Board-Congregation conversation is on Sunday November 6 after each service, 11:00 am & 12:30 pm in Dobkin Hall. Please join us to learn more!

The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington is to:
(adopted by the Congregation in 2013)

- Be a community of individuals who accept and support each other, celebrating our diversity and commonality in a safe and nurturing environment that embraces a wide range of spiritual beliefs and practices.
- Offer diverse formal and informal worship services and forums that cultivate our spiritual and intellectual growth.
- Provide vibrant religious education for youth and adults that encourages free expression of ideas in the search for meaning.
- Engage in social action that promotes justice, freedom and compassion in the greater community.
- Accept our shared responsibility for the health and well-being of our congregation and the larger UU community.
- Foster friendships and fun by gathering for social activities.

The Mission of the Board of Trustees is to:

(adopted for 2016-2017)

Create policies and a vision which ensure that the ministries and resources of the congregation are effectively and efficiently directed toward achieving the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington.

Eden Avery
President

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**November Open House**

**EAT, MEET, CONNECT! – *Everybody Welcome!***

**When: Sunday, November 20th, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Where: Home of Doris Chew and Bill Stewart, Wilmington**

**What to Bring: YOURSELF & A FRIEND. Plus a dish or beverage to share.**

**What to do:**

- **Eat** delicious food
- **Meet** someone new
- **Connect** with an old friend
- **Enjoy** good conversation



Watch for fliers in Dobkin Hall or call the Office at 910-392-6454 for more details.

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UU Auction Raffle!

\$500 Amazon Gift Card will jump-start your holiday shopping!

Or just spend it on yourself!



Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50

Starts November 6th

Drawing December 18th

Heart & Soul

AUCTION

Open your heart & grow your soul!



Saturday, February 25, 2017
6:00PM – 9:00PM

Fundraising Goal: \$20,000
Participation Goal: 100%
Fun Goal: JOY!!

How can we reach our goal?

DONATE

- A service based on your talent or expertise...
(Computer Services, Photography, House Cleaning, Babysitting, Handyman Work, Portraiture, Artwork, Specialty Foods)
- A weekend getaway
- A gourmet dinner
- A gift certificate
- A unique collectible

VOLUNTEER

- List your name on the sign up sheets for one of the activities that will make the auction successful and fun for all.

CONTACT

Auction Steering Committee:

Tammy Ellison, Robin Gugan,
 Kami O'Keeffe, Sylvia Quinn,
 Jimmy Reeves, Kim Singleton,
 Karen VanWagner, Barbara Wolk

Co-Chairs:

Scott Armstrong, Diane Miller