

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON



BEACON OCTOBER 2018

OFFICE HOURS

MINISTER

REV. CHERYL M. WALKER

TUESDAY 11AM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY 11AM – 4PM

THURSDAY 11AM – 4PM

AND BY APPOINTMENT

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LESLIE O'CONNOR

MONDAY 10:30AM - 3:30PM

WEDNESDAY 10:30AM - 3:30PM

THURSDAY 10:30AM - 3:30PM

ADMINISTRATOR

JULIE BURCHAM

TUESDAY 9AM – 2PM

WEDNESDAY 9AM – 2PM

THURSDAY 9AM – 2PM

FRIDAY 9AM – 2PM

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCT. 7

WORSHIP TEAM

OCT. 14

REV. CHERYL

OCT. 21

REV. CHERYL W/CHOIR

OCT. 28

WORSHIP TEAM

UUCWNC BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: BILL SINGLETON

VICE PRESIDENT: DON SMITH

SECRETARY: TAMMY ELLISON

KAREN GOTTOVI

MIKE HOSICK

MELTON McLAURIN

RICK NIDA

BETH O'CONNELL

PAMELA WAITE

TREASURER: JOHN GRIGSBY

GENEROUS LIFE TEAM

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present”

Albert Camus

It has been gratifying to hear of the many survival stories from one another and the community following Hurricane Florence. Everyone, we are sure, is thinking about how they can help those who have been severely impacted by this historic event.

With this in mind, we invite you to express your generosity by joining the efforts of this community to support those in need. There are many organizations reaching out to community members in need (e.g., Nourish NC, Support the Port, and Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard).

Ron Cochran, our UUCW liaison for Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, reports that they are in desperate need of the following items:

- cleaning supplies - bleach, vinegar, mops, sprays
- paper towels
- canned meat - especially chicken
- 16 oz pasta of any type
- rice
- canned soup
- canned legume beans
- canned fruit
- canned veggies
- peanut butter
- jelly
- mayo
- mac and cheese boxes



Please bring all items to UUCW during the month of October. Also, additional volunteers are needed at Mother Hubbard’s at this time. If you are available, contact Jane Radack at booradack@gmail.com. She can provide you information about volunteer opportunities.

Giving of your time and resources is a simple way to turn our gratitude into generosity.

Sara Jarvis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Storms in Life

By Bill Singleton

Storms can be physical or psychological but overwhelm us either way. They are levelers of our lives because they affect all economic and social levels. The important factor is whether we survive the storms or succumb to them. Our ability to survive is influenced by our strengths, which come from ourselves and our relationships.

At the very beginning of Hurricane Florence a fallen tree tested my and my wife's strengths. But, we were reinforced in minutes by neighbors who joined us in cutting branches and moving the tree to prevent more damage when the full storm hit hours later. Between the eye of the storm and the lingering drenching rain I saw volunteer efforts to feed and clothe and house people and pets seriously impacted by home damage and power loss. After the hurricane I saw more than a dozen of the congregation of all ages pitch in to clean up the church grounds. I saw impressive feats of strength, ingenuity, and agility that demonstrated devotion to a common purpose.

The relationships that are started before a crisis can strengthen and deepen when the need occurs. Or, they can fray and tear under the stress of anxiety and fear. The help and comfort I received and to which I contributed to others came from and went to friends, neighbors and fellow congregants. This happened during the most extreme conditions of the hurricane and afterward. What I saw proved to me that the relationships were based on empathy, sympathy and the love of our fellow humans. I saw the best elements of the people come out in their actions. They showed me that their ability and mine to survive future storms is strong because we work together for our common good.



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

While riding out Hurricane Florence, here in Wilmington, I found myself humming two hymns. One of them I knew the words; the other I only knew the chorus. I would have looked up the lyrics for the one I didn't know but I didn't have any electricity and therefore no internet.

The first hymn is familiar to many of us, it is the first hymn in our hymnal, *May Nothing Evil Cross This Door*. We sang this hymn the Sunday before Florence came for a visit. I would claim to be prescient but actually we sing this hymn on the first Sunday of the church year every year. I didn't know that I would be singing it in my home just five days later. I kept singing it, almost as a prayer.

The second hymn I started singing on Sunday morning. It is an old gospel song, *The Storm Is Passing Over*. I could only remember parts of the first verse in particular "*Thanks be to God, the morning light appears. The storm is passing over, Hallelujah.*" I don't think I needed any more than those words. The storm is passing over, hallelujah.

I think many of us who were here had songs in our heads those three long days that Florence was here. In the end, as storms always do, it did indeed pass over and in the light of day we could see the destruction left in its wake. My neighbors' tress came down, blessedly not on their houses. Fences were torn apart. Shingles were missing. The streets were strewn with debris. Florence left quite a mark on my neighborhood and as I soon found out, the whole city.

When it was safe, I headed over to the church to see the state of things. Lake Avenue was flooded, up to our driveway, which was not flooded. That alone was a minor miracle as our driveway floods on a regular basis. The first thing I saw, was our Side with Love banner on the church. To be honest I didn't think the banner would make it, but there it was, still proclaiming that we Side with Love. Oh me of little faith.

In the days after the storm, I have witnessed our people siding with love in many ways. People reached out to one another to see how they were doing and offering assistance as they could. People started volunteering with groups that were feeding the hungry and distributing supplies. And a whole bunch of people showed up at the church to clean up the grounds. Stop by Dobkin Hall to see the before and after pictures of their efforts.

What I saw in the days after the storm is what I have always known about the people of this congregation. When there is a need we will be there. We will live out our faith through our deeds. And always we will Side with Love. It is who we are, and what we do.

The storm has passed over and nothing evil crossed our door, we were fortunate. May we continue to share our good fortune with those who need us now. Let us Side with Love.

Many kind blessings, Rev. Cheryl

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REFLECTIONS

“Once upon a time, people identified the god Neptune as the source of storms at sea. Today we call these storms hurricanes ... the only people who still call hurricanes acts of God are the people who write insurance forms.”

-- Neil

deGrasse Tyson

It seems we've been dealing with a series of storms lately, some named and some not. We know well how to prepare for a storm such as Florence. We bring in the potted plants, lawn furniture and park our cars on higher ground. We fill our gas tanks, empty the bread shelves at stores and check on our neighbors. We may even evacuate. Preparation for the unnamed storms that we may be forced to endure may not be so straightforward and practiced.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a learning program about sexuality that has developmentally appropriate units for children as young as kindergarten, youth, teens and adults. It was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is frequently updated to reflect changing cultural trends, medical knowledge and societal laws. OWL provides honest, accurate information about sexuality. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions and builds self-acceptance and self-esteem. Guided by UU values and principles, program activities help participants to clarify values and improve decision-making skills.

I'm writing about this because OWL program participants are uniquely prepared to handle some of the unnamed storms in our lives – like the one raging during recent congressional hearings for a nominee for the US Supreme Court. An OWL participant gains a healthy perspective on sexuality – respect for self and others – that would make such alleged behavior antithetical to one's value system and beliefs.

Historically, the UUCW Religious Education program offers the OWL curriculum to adolescent children of our members. We also reach out to youth outside the UUCW community to offer this as an opportunity to fulfill shared values. It is a school-year long program that typically takes place during regular Sunday School hours, and it promotes a special bond between teachers and students.

OWL teachers are required to attend special UUA-developed training that provides them with the knowledge and tools to be an effective presenter of OWL materials. Several members of UUCW have completed this training and have taught our youth in the past. I'm researching 'refresher' training for experienced teachers, as well as fundamental training for people new to the program.

Please contact me at dre@uufwilmington.org if you may be interested in attending OWL teacher training. We consider OWL to be an integral part of our overall Religious Education program. Teaching it puts our faith in action and highlights the relevancy of UU values and principles in today's political and social environment.

Shalom. –Leslie O'Connor *Interim Director of Religious Education*



Greetings from the MEMBERSHIP team.....

The fall Welcome Classes are being planned. The dates for these classes are:

November 4, Sunday at 1pm to 2:30pm

November 7, Wednesday at 6pm to 7:30pm

November 11, Sunday at 1pm to 2:30pm

If you are interested in attending any or all of these classes, please stop by the Welcome Table and sign up for the classes.

Any and everyone are invited to attend these classes!

The content of these classes differ enough that attendance to all three classes is highly recommended. There are no mandates to becoming a member of UUCWNC after the classes. Membership is an individual commitment but does require a private meeting with Rev. Cheryl before the church membership book can be signed. This being said, you are encouraged to become a member of the church to benefit from all that our members enjoy.

You may stop by the Welcome Table to talk with a member of the Membership Team and to obtain information on the classes or for membership in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wilmington NC.



The Welcome Table

The mission of the Welcome Table is to provide a warm welcome on Sunday mornings **to our visitors, members and friends**. In addition to providing *Welcoming*, the Welcome Table provides *information about the church* and in particular *Membership*. *Childcare and church activities information* is also given out at the Table.

Please consider greeting on Sunday mornings. Just stop by the Welcome Table after Sunday services to sign up for a date/s to greet!

Membership team: Tim Gugan, Diane Miller, Carol Anne Davis, Tina Schenk, Merritt Blalock, Margaret Armstrong, Becki Schreiber and Rev. Cheryl M. Walker.

Caring Committee



Acting in concert with the minister, the Caring Committee provides short term support, care and assistance to UUCWNC members and friends who are experiencing illness, injury or crisis. We are here for you. Please let us know when you need help with a difficult situation. Your personal information will be held in the strictest confidence or shared with the congregation at your request.

If you are looking for a way to make a difference in our community, consider becoming a member of the Caring Committee, or just let us know that you are available to make a meal, provide a ride, or a visit when the need arises. To join or offer your services, please contact any of our members. **Tina Schenk will be the Caring Committee chair for the month of October.** Other members are: Carol Anne Davis, Diane Halley, Jeannie Lennon, Jane Linn, Kami O'Keeffe, Kim Singleton, and Rev. Cheryl M. Walker.

FULL MOON gathering for October



October's Moon rises just after sunset and sets around sunrise making this night the only night in the month when the Moon is in the sky all night long.

October's moon also is the time to go hunting in preparation for winter!!

The Full Moon gathering for October will be held at the home of Theresa L on Tuesday evening, October 23 at 7:00pm. Kat C will be our High Priestess for the evening offering a program that celebrates our goddesses and all women.

Women of any age are welcomed to these gatherings. However, if you plan to attend, please RSVP to the hostess or to the Full Moon's email address, fullmoon@uufwilmington.org. This website can also be used for any questions or for information about the Full Moon gatherings including directions to the gatherings.



Navigators Scouts Chapter 109

October meetings: Wednesdays, Oct 3 and 17, 6 pm, Dobkin Hall

Co-ed Scouting group for all genders, ages 5 to 18

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month for a fun scouting experience! We're planning our fall camping trip...come and see what we're all about! We welcome all genders, sexualities and abilities.

For information, email: chapter109@navigatorusa.org and/or join our Facebook group for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1480816658913681/>
(or search for Navigators Chapter 109)

We hope to see you there!

WELCOME! CLASS

ARE YOU NEW TO THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON?

ARE YOU NEW TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM?

DO YOU KNOW EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT US AND WHAT WE BELIEVE?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU HERE?

DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE?

IF YOU ARE ON YOUR PATH TO MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU ARE SIMPLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING

ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM AND THE UU CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON, THESE CLASSES ARE FOR YOU! WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US:

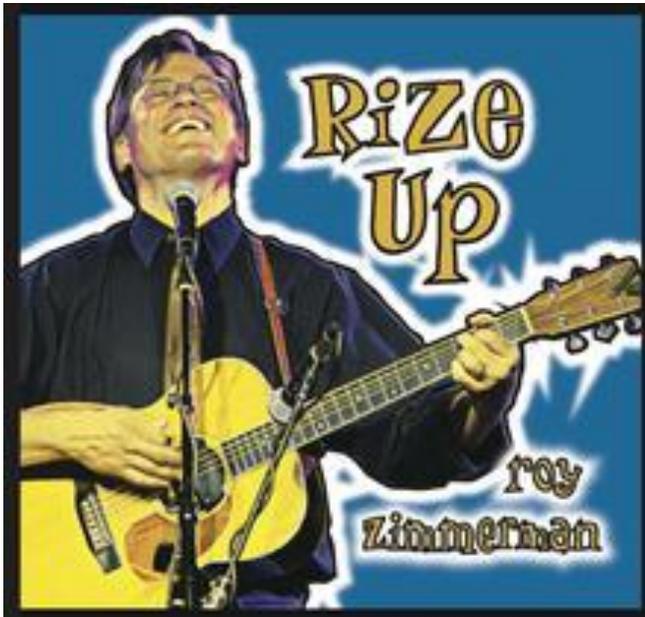
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 6 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1 PM

EACH CLASS COVERS DIFFERENT MATERIAL, INCLUDING WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE BELIEVE AND HOW EVERYTHING FITS TOGETHER. CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED WITH PRIOR COORDINATION.

YOU MAY SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME TABLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, OR CONTACT LESLIE O'CONNOR: DRE@UUFWILMINGTON.ORG FOR INFORMATION.



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington is pleased to host Roy Zimmerman, America's foremost political satirist who is touring the country delivering some of the smartest satirical songs that have ever been written. His new "Rize Up" show brings laughter and encouragement to progressive-minded people in the Age of Trump. Zimmerman's sharp-witted, intelligent, and humorous original songs are funny and forceful gems - each an affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression" says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility for change."

Tickets are \$20 or pay what you can, and they are available from Martha Brophy, Thea Hagepanos, and at the door.



Hello dear fellow congregants and visitors,

Tricia Ruge here to talk about the future of Tai Chi come fall. Our group, which began meeting in the spring, took a break in July, anticipating a restart in September. Due to a change of plans in my vacation schedule, I will not be available now until the middle of October. We will be ready to roll again on Monday, Oct 15, at 10am. All welcome, including those from outside our congregation!

I'm writing to you all again to give you an update on my teaching style. Some of you know that this was the first class I had taught anywhere in a few years. I have learned many things over the past 6 months, and will be teaching 10+ classes per week around the city come October. First of all, my classes in Dobkin Hall were never seated Tai Chi, but an opportunity for all levels of ability to participate. I have culled the amount of warm up exercises that need to be done seated, making it easier for one to adapt this to individual needs. And I will offer the opportunity, for those who have taken Tai Chi over time, to spend the last few minutes of each class and move through the form at a quicker pace.

For those who have participated, I believe it has been a meaningful experience. I look forward to taking the next steps. See you sooner at services but for class in October. If you have any questions you can contact me at pmrsnr@aol.com.

In peace,
Tricia

