

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON

BEACON MAY 2020



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**

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 3	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 10	REV. CHERYL
MAY 17	REV. CHERYL
MAY 24	WORSHIP TEAM
MAY 31	REV. CHERYL

UUCWNC BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: DON SMITH

VICE PRESIDENT: BETH O'CONNELL

SECRETARY: CORNELIA MAXTED

KAREN GOTTOVI

MIKE HOSICK

JIM LUDWIG

PAMELA WAITE

TREASURER: JOHN GRIGSBY

BOARD OF Trustees

Brush my hair and teeth, a clean shirt and I am ready for church. Life has never been this easy! I certainly enjoy the new service format Reverend Cheryl and the Worship team have crafted. Get to see everyone and enjoy the quiet chats. Perhaps I am less of an extrovert than I imagine.

Members of the family have already received their \$1,200 stipend. Tech savvy grandchildren have received their first unemployment checks. “Your account has been locked” looks to be DES’s only response to Roses attempts to date.

Wednesday is a great day our house. Landscapers swarm the property giving Reese, our elderly four-pound chihuahua, a chance to ferociously defend the castle. Perhaps my age is showing as I enjoy watching the wind blow the tree limbs around for inordinately long times.

Thank goodness for FaceTime and Skype. I’ve spoken to people who thought I’d passed. Soon I will probably be routed directly to Voicemail. Projects are in disarray and beg for completion. Nap time gets in their way.

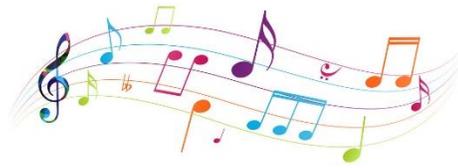
I ruminate about what our society will create as its new normal. My hope for the end of divisiveness and the emergence of and implementation of many of our UU principles relies on our better nature rather than simple optimism. I remain grateful to be a member of the Congregations Board. Rose and I delight in the company of people we admire.

May you all enjoy this very unique time of our lives.

Jim Ludwig



MINISTER'S MUSINGS



If you've been in my house you know I have a pretty extensive music collection, including hundreds of CDs and thousands of vinyl. Listening to music is one of those things that soothe my soul, inspire me, make me laugh, and just bring me joy. I make playlists of songs, mostly just things that I like, but some of them have themes. I have a CD for when I am re-feeling the grief of loved, lives lost. I have a psyche up CD for Sunday morning that I play on my way to church. I have a CD about sunshine when it's sunny and one about rainy days when it is raining.

The other day I was thinking if I were to put together a CD for these times what would it contain? The first one I came up with was Aretha Franklin's [*Who's Zoomin' Who?*](#) Then [*When Will I See You Again?*](#) by the Three Degrees. And then I thought of Bruce Springsteen's [*High Hopes*](#), and [*Church*](#) by Lyle Lovett, [*Swimming to the Other Side*](#) by Emma's Revolution, [*Harvest for the World*](#) by the Isley Brothers and finally Bonnie Raitt's [*Help Me Lord*](#). These were just the ones that popped into my head.

Don't worry if you don't know all of these songs, there are very few people who would know all of them. A gold star for you if you at least know all the artists. These songs just fit how I am feeling right now. From the fun of Aretha to the pleas of Bonnie. Oh I just thought of another one [*Spiritual*](#) by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Yes, "can't no one know at sunrise how this day is going to end."

We are all feeling a multitude of emotions right now. We are afraid, our fear is real. This virus is taking a heavy toll on the world. We are tired, emotionally and spiritually which makes us tired physically. We are saddened by all the deaths. For some of us, the deaths are personal, so we grieve. We are angry with our government and our society at large. We are lonelier, isolated from the people we care about, not able to just shake hands with someone. We are bored, there's just so many projects you can think of to do. We are anxious. We are hopeful that one day we will find a way back to our old lives, though we shall all be changed.

All of these feelings and more are legitimate, and we should give them their due. We should recognize when we are having them and not try to run away from them. Be with them for a bit, the good ones and the bad ones. If they are starting to overwhelm you then reach out for help. Call a friend, call me, call a therapist. But if they are here for but a time, give them the time they need. Understand that these feelings are real, and you are having them. And it is okay to have them.

One day, these will be the bad old days. But for now, these are the days we have, and these are the feelings we have. Some days will be hard. Some days will be easy. Our task is to get through this day, to make it to the next. To take care our ourselves and each other. A new day will come, and until it does find your songs to help you through.

Love and many kind blessings, Rev. Cheryl



Note from your Faith Formation Director

A message from your Faith Formation Director, in which she ponders our society from behind a mask ...

"It is possible that the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual. The next Buddha may take the form of a community, a community practicing understanding and loving kindness, a community practicing mindful living. And the practice can be carried out as a group, as a city, as a nation."

—*Thich Nhat Hanh, "The Next Buddha May Be A Sangha"*

In last month's Beacon column, I pondered hand washing as a spiritual exercise. As our circumstances allow greater movement within the community, and we learn more about this virus, we're now being asked to wear a mask while in public. I used to think that there were two kinds of Americans: those who don't mind paying an extra .20 cents for their Big Mac so that their servers can get access to health insurance, and those who would boycott and picket the restaurant to make sure that they don't. There is very little one can say to convince a person in either of the groups that they are wrong.

Now I'm seeing the world from the perspective that there are two kinds of Americans: those who wear masks in public and those who don't. Knowing that the mask is more for the safety of others does not diminish my commitment to wearing one. I'm caring for my 86-year-old parents during this ongoing crisis. As I tour through the grocery store aisles, carefully minding my shopping list but somehow oblivious to the one-way arrows they've set up in each aisle, I look at the many mask-less faces and wonder if they don't, too, have someone they love who is vulnerable to this virus. It's not being selfless to wear a mask. It's common sense to wear one, common courtesy to the hundreds of strangers who I might affect with my 20-minute visit to Harris Teeter.

When I see a stranger in the store wearing a mask, I hear them loud and clear saying to me that "we're all in this together". Even though their mouths are covered, I can detect a smile behind that mask. It's all in the eyes. Those without masks seem to be a bit more self-conscious, stressed and smiles are fewer. Maybe they're struggling with the restrictions of the pandemic mediation. Maybe it's easier to deal with it when you truly believe that we're all in this together. That we are a community of people who, even if we don't know one another, still care for each other. And a simple thing like wearing a mask in public is no big deal. But it's a deal we make with each other. And it becomes very big indeed when preventable illness and death are on the line.

I'm confident that UU's in the larger community are wearing masks in public. It's not just a symbol of our faith – it's putting our faith in action. I can only hope that by seeing us wearing masks, those who choose not to will dig a little deeper into their conscious to question why they don't.

Leslie O'Connor

Faith Formation Director





Caring Committee

Rosalyn Carter said, “there are four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are a caregiver, those who will be caregivers and those who need caregivers.” During this difficult period of the corona virus pandemic, we are all being called to care for ourselves and our family and friends in many new and familiar ways.

The Caring Committee in collaboration with the Member Engagement Team spent much of March and April contacting all members and most friends of our congregation to check in and see how they were doing during this challenging time. Assistance was offered to those who expressed a need. Several people in addition to the Caring Committee members offered assistance to anyone needing help with essential errands. All of us can stay in touch by phone, zoom, email, text or old-fashioned mail. Social connection is key in coping during this difficult time.

A number of enterprising congregants have been making masks and the church has a collection and distribution box located just outside the front door of the church. Since mask wearing is becoming the new norm, it is vitally important that we all have two (one to wear and a spare while laundering a dirty mask). Our great appreciation to those who have volunteered their time and talents to make masks. Please keep up the good work!!! If you need a mask and cannot get to the church to pick one up, please contact the Caring Committee Chair listed at the bottom of this entry.

We would like to express our condolences to former congregation members Chuck E. for the loss of his wife Mary Ann in March and Dawn “Cookie” J. for the loss of her partner Tom in April.

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 make a visit when the need arises. During the pandemic many of us who are over 65 years of age are staying home and not able to provide our usual services. We are grateful that some of the younger members of our congregation have volunteered to help-out during this time. To join or offer your services, please contact any of our members: Cathy Campau, Carol Anne Davis, Diane Halley, Jeanette Koshar, Jeannie Lennon, Jane Linn, Elizabeth MacLeod (our newest member, welcome Elizabeth) Kami O’Keeffe, Jill Pollock, Betsy Randall- David, Tina Schenk and Rev. Cheryl M. Walker.

The Chair of the Caring Committee for May is Diane Halley. She can be reached at: halleyds1789@gmail.com.

MAY 2020 FULL MOON

To the Native American Algonquin tribe, May's full moon was known as the Full Flower Moon. To those of us living in North Carolina this requires no explanation, as every day we see more flowers blooming and plants growing. Many cultures have had festivals celebrating the return of the earth's fertility in May – Beltane, Floralia, and May Day to name a few.



Our May gathering will take place on Zoom at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 12th in the comfort of your own home. Robin B. will lead our ritual. Although we couldn't meet last month, we were able to recreate our sense of connection during our Zoom gathering. We will email a Zoom invitation prior to the date. If you would like to participate, please email Robin B. or Jane L.

One of our long-time members, Diane M., will be leaving us at the beginning of June. She has been participating in our group since 2001 and will be sorely missed.



**May
10th**



**May
25th**