

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON

BEACON JULY 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**

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY 5

REV. CHERYL

JULY 12

REV. CHERYL

JULY 19

REV. CHERYL

JULY 26

WORSHIP TEAM

UUCWNC BOARD MEMBERS

TONY BARNEY

JERRY HURWITZ

JIM LUDWIG

CORNELIA MAXTED

KAMI O'KEEFEE

ELIZABETH MCLEOD

RAINE MORGAN

BETH O'CONNELL

BECKI SCHREIBER

TREASURER: JOHN GRIGSBY

Board of Trustees

As a new church year begins, with a new Board moving into place, I hope you won't mind if I reminisce just a bit about the past three years. It took me some time to wrap my brain around the governance structure of the UUCW. In a (very simplified) nutshell, here it is: The Board of Trustees establishes policy, provides a structure and framework under which the many committees and teams operate and do the work of the Congregation.

If you've contributed your time to these groups, please take a bow! Have you served on the Board of Trustees, the Generous Life Team, Membership Engagement Team, Operation Wellness Team, Worship Committee, Membership Committee, Caring Committee, Social Action Advisory Group? How about the Soup Sunday Crew or the Share the Plate Team? Have you helped move equipment and sandbags before a storm, cleaned up the grounds after a storm, trimmed bushes, planted flowers, been part of a painting "party", helped the Quilting Group?

On a Sunday morning, have you sung in the Choir or provided instrumental music, taught an RE class, been a Greeter, Usher, Verger, Worship Associate, staffed the Welcome Table, counted the collection, provided flowers, made coffee or provided treats?

The list could continue, but I'll stop there. My goal here is not to list every facet of congregational life (I hope I haven't overlooked your favorite contributor). My goal is to point out that for a Congregation of something less than 200 souls, our members provide an astounding number of hours to make this church function and thrive. Many thanks to all contributors to the health of our Congregation!

Here's hoping that before too, too long we can return to doing all these things in person. I don't know about you, but I sure miss the hugs.

Love to all,
Don Smith



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

I am “back” from General Assembly (GA), our annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. It was the third largest General Assembly in history with over 4,600 attendees from 49 states, Canada and Mexico. All of these UUs gathered in one place and none of us had to leave our homes. It was the first ever, and hopefully not last, all virtual General Assembly.

GA culminated with a fantastic worship service on Sunday morning seen by over 10,000 people. Worship was led by two people of color, one of whom is transgender. When I attended my first General Assembly, twenty years ago, I could not have imagined this day would come. And the world saw who we are. And we heard messages about being rooted in who we are, being inspired to cross bridges towards our collective liberation, and being ready to move, persistently and insistently, and always with love. Rooted, Inspired, Ready was the theme of this year's General Assembly.

Reverend Joan Javier-Duvall said in her sermon that in these times “Our creativity and our will is being tested and stretched.” Indeed, they are. These times whether we are dealing with the Corona virus, or confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and racism, or voter suppression, call for us to be creative and persistent and insistent in our will. The stakes are very high, and they call for us to do what we may do in whichever ways we can. Rev. Javier-Duvall further said “Not all of us are going to do this work the same way. There are many roles to play in our movements towards collective liberation.” What is up to each of us is to ask and answer, what role will I play in struggle for collective liberation.

It was pretty amazing what a whole bunch of people were able to accomplish to make this GA happen in a few short months. Normally, the GA planning committee has a full year to plan, but they had three months once COVID hit us. Brilliance is making something look easy, that is actually very hard. They were brilliant. It wasn't perfect, but it didn't need to be. Perfectionism, a hallmark of white supremacy culture, stifles creativity and risk taking. The UUA and many others chose to risk imperfection and created what I found to be a most rewarding experience. It was a shining example of what we can do when we have the will.

We are still in uncertain times, and we will need to continue to be creative in all manner of things, in our lives, in our congregation and in our world. This month Quest is returning, in a different form. Soon our pledge campaign will begin, in a different form. Things will not be the same, but if we open ourselves to creativity and risk taking, then we shall find that there will be better days.

What GA showed us, and what we have been learning all along, is that we can do amazing things together. It is up to each of us to do our part in continuing to make amazing things happen.

May we always be rooted, inspired and ready for the days to come.

Many kind blessings, Rev. Cheryl

WE WILL GET THRU THIS
Together

Note from your Faith Formation Director

.....in which she shares a fishing story.....

I've been caring for my elderly parents during the corona virus crisis, shopping for them, getting them to medical appointments and such. One of my primary duties is to get Dad out of the house for a few hours so that he doesn't drive my Mom completely up the wall! It's been challenging to find safe places to take him during the pandemic. Finally, after over a week of cloudy, rainy days, the sun came out and we went, at his request, fishing at Kure Beach Pier. It was a weekday, and we were lucky enough to find an open fishing bench. Bait shrimp readied on the hooks, we dropped our lines and took in the view.

Since my Dad misplaced his hearing aids there wasn't much sense in talking. So, we sat in silence, soaking up some much-needed vitamin D from the sun, traces of sunscreen sweating off our faces. It was a comfortable silence, broken by the occasional passersby who noticed Dad's army veteran hat and stopped to thank him for his service. I appreciated the fact that most of them, conscious of his frailty and need for social distancing, tried to keep their distance, only to break it when they had to repeat themselves so my Dad could read their lips. My Dad takes great pride when people recognize him for his service. It's one part of his long life that he remembers every minute detail of, and he frequently shares stories of his army days with great humor and fondness.

I have a feeling that years from now, I will look back at this time in my life with great humor and fondness. I'll recall the buffet lunch we served the fish that beautiful day in June, and the sudden, in-my-face shock of realizing the next day that we had left the bait shrimp in the car overnight. I'll recall the comfortable silence I shared with Dad and the reminiscing of childhood fishing trips made in our 12' Sears aluminum rowboat that my Dad grandly and completely without irony named the 'Pequod'.

In my column last month, I promised myself that I would take time to notice the beauty of my garden, and not just the weeds. Keeping that promise to myself is making it easier for me to spot the moments to be remembered as they happen. When we look back at this challenging "Summer of '20", it will be good to have some happy memories to share. I hope that you and your loved ones can spend many moments making those memories.

Shalom,

Leslie O'Connor
Faith Formation Director



Kure Beach Pier

Operational Wellness & Support Team



Falling Apart and Coming Together

The Sufi mystic Rumi once wrote: “The wound is the place where the Light enters you”. I’ve been thinking about that quote as the weeks have dragged into months of coronavirus-necessitated ‘safe-at-home’ orders, masks and sanitizing and changes to so much of our “everydayness”. This pandemic has fractured the planet’s rhythms, our American society, our cultures, our daily habits and our expectations of what “normal days” look like. A lot of things have broken open and fallen to pieces, haven’t they?

That’s not to say that “falling to pieces” is always a BAD thing. In the rubble of our old comfortable daily lives, we can find big chunks of belief systems and assumptions that we’ve outgrown, that just “don’t go with” the way things look today. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery focused us once again upon systemic racism and institutionalized violence against people of color. This time, the nation’s painful pandemic reality was salt in the wound of that daily racism, and we cannot look away.

Those days of conspicuous consumption and frivolous financial choices (otherwise known as January) have given way to an introspection and reconsideration in our enforced retreats from the known/unknown of Covid-19. Now we get to sit and think about what we want for this country moving forward. We have the opportunity again, to bring creativity, compassion and renewed awareness to crafting the path ahead. Our steps forward will be taken gingerly, because we are more fully aware of everything that’s at stake.

Be well, my friends

Wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance!

Thea Hagepanos



Caring Committee



Acting in concert with the minister, the caring committee provides short-term support, care and assistance to UU members and friends who are experiencing illness, injury or crisis. Your personal information is always held in confidence unless you wish us to share it with the broader UU community.

We are sorry to report that long time member, Tim G., passed away on Friday, June 26th. On Sunday mornings, Tim was the smiling face who greeted our members and welcomed our visitors as an active participant in the Membership Committee. For many years Tim was also a mainstay of the choir. His soaring tenor voice brought joy and inspiration to our congregation. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Robin, her mother, Betty G., and their families. Tim will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Terri M. on July 2nd at 2pm via Zoom with Rev. Cheryl M. W. officiating. Terri was a long time-member of the worship team and a dear friend to many.

We are here for you. Please reach out to us and let us know if there are ways in which we can assist you or help in finding resources for you. If you are feeling isolated or disconnected from your UU community, please reach out. Beyond phone/email/zoom, we can now engage in safely distanced driveway or backyard or park visits. Members of the Caring Committee are Cathy C., Carol Anne D., Diane H., Jeanette K., Jeannie L., Jane L., Elizabeth M., Kami O., Jill P., Betsy R., Tina S., and Rev. Cheryl M. W. The Chair of the Caring Committee for July is Kami O.

July Full Moon

In the Native American tradition, the July full moon is known as the full buck moon by some because the buck's antlers are in full growth at this time. Others call it the thunder moon because of the frequency of thunder storms in July, according to the Farmer's Almanac. Across the Pacific Ocean in Japan, Tanabata (the Star Festival) is celebrated on July 7th honoring the meeting of star-crossed deities Orihime and Hikoboshi, represented by the stars Vega and Altair, who are allowed to meet only once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month of the lunisolar calendar.



Our July Full Moon Gathering will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7th at 7 pm with Jessica H. leading our ritual. A Zoom invitation will be sent out prior to the date. Please let Jessica know if you would like to attend.

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2)	29	30 5:00 PM Generous Life Team (Z2) 7:00 PM Just Mercy Discussion Group (Z1)	1 3:00 PM Just Mercy Discussion Group (Z1) 7:00 PM Quest Facilitators - (Z1)	2 2:00 PM Terri Mawson Celebration of Life (Z1)	3 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	4
5 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	6	7 5:00 PM Social Justice Advisory (Z1)	8	9 5:00 PM OW&S (Z2) 7:00 PM Connections (Z)	10 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	11 6:30 PM Wilmington Progressive Coalition Potluck (D)
12 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	13	14 1:00 PM Chalice Quilters (A1) 7:00 PM Connections (Z)	15 6:30 PM WAIS (C3)	16	17 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	18
19 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	20 2:00 PM Poetry Group (Z1)	21 4:00 PM Exec Committee Meeting (Z1)	22	23	24 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	25
26 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	27	28 5:00 PM BOT (Z1)	29	30	31 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning 1:00 PM JUULIETs Lunch (Z1)	1



*I wanted to take a moment to Thank the Caring Committee for the beautiful flowers and cards that were sent during my recovery from surgery as well as the calls, texts & emails from you!
I appreciate the good vibes and thoughts, they worked wonders! You really know how to make a girl feel loved. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!*

*Julie Burcham,
Your Church Administrator*