

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON

BEACON AUGUST 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**

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AUG. 2	WORSHIP TEAM
AUG. 9	WORSHIP TEAM
AUG. 16	WORSHIP TEAM
AUG. 23	REV. SARAH K. LAMMERT
AUG. 30	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



Note from your Faith Formation Director

In which she describes the FUN we will have this year...

September 13th will be the first day back in Sunday School! We will have two classes. Young children (K-4th) will meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings before the adult service, 9:30-10:15. The 5th-8th graders will meet immediately following service 11:30-12:15. That will give the teens some extra time to sleep in! Leslie O'Connor will lead both classes to start, eventually finding a few substitute teachers who are comfortable with the technology and content. Online security for our youngest members is of utmost concern.

Our curricula is from IMAGINE – RE, a curriculum development organization at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Blacksburg, VA. This is the same group that produced the popular Harry and UU (Harry Potter curriculum). CartUUns is brand new this year, and Principled Music and 5th Dimension have already proven their popularity with students and teachers alike. The curricula lends itself particularly well to an on-line format.

For our kindergarten thru 4th grade students: CartUUns

CartUUns uses Disney and Pixar animated shorts (3-11 minutes long) as discussion prompts to set the theme. A typical session will include ritual practices (lighting the chalice, checking in, extinguishing the chalice, singing Shalom). After check-in, the leader will play the video and then lead discussion. Themes may be aligned with those of adult worship when practical. The curriculum includes instructions for crafts that are related to the topic. Mindful that students may already have substantial homework from school, and parents may already be 'zoomed out', the crafts will be considered an optional, supplementary component of the class. Parents may request a take-home packet of craft supplies, organized and clearly labeled by session, that may be either picked up at the church or mailed to home address. The craft activity is to be done outside of the classroom time (perhaps while parents are attending the adult service).

A more detailed description of the curriculum and a sample lesson plan of CartUUns can be found here:
<http://www.imagine-re.com/cartuuns.html>

Curriculum for the second semester (starting in January) is to be determined.

For our 5th thru 8th grade students: Principled Music / The 5th Dimension / Stamped Family Book Group

Principled Music takes the student on an overview of songs based around specific themes, like bullying, racism and war. Listening sessions will transition into discussion sessions, and homework will be enjoyable as students search for songs that they like around the same theme. Interspersed with Principled Music will be the 5th Dimension, where students will view classic Twilight Zone episodes and then discuss the philosophical themes as they relate to Unitarian Universalist principles and sources. The sessions will be coherent and build on each other as the songs and Twilight Zone episode selected will share the same theme.

Here are more detailed descriptions of the Principled Music and the 5th Dimension curricula:

<http://www.imagine-re.com/principled-music.html>

<http://www.imagine-re.com/the-fifth-dimension.html>

A family book group is planned for *Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism and You* by Jason Reynolds. The book group will meet during Sunday school sessions and participation will be limited to UU parents and students. The book group is tentatively scheduled for six Sundays, starting in January. Here is a description of the book: <https://www.amazon.com/Stamped-Antiracism-National-Award-winning-Beginning/dp/0316453692>

Here is a list of black-owned bookstores that you may consider when purchasing the book: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/black-owned-bookstores-to-support-while-relearning-history>
Confidential assistance with the purchase of the book may be arranged through Leslie.

I miss my parents and students and look forward to seeing each other (via Zoom) in September! We've maintained our connections among the adults of our congregation through summer services and virtual activities. It's time now to bring our children into the loving fold to renew their connections to our spiritual community. I'll be reaching out to each of you to address any questions or concerns.

Shalom,

Leslie O'Connor

Director, Religious Education



Caring Committee



Acting in concert with the minister, the caring team 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.

This month we mourn the passing of two long term, active members of our congregation. Celebration of Life services on Zoom with The Rev. Cheryl M. W. officiating were held for Terri M. on July 2nd and Tim G. on July 16.

In addition to RE teaching, Terri was a long time-member of the worship team who shared her spiritual inspirations which were cherished by all those who heard her. Rev. Cheryl describes being uplifted by Teri's spiritual foundation of gratitude, even during difficult challenges. Personal reflections were offered by her good friends Bev C. and fellow worship team members Thea H. and Pamela W., whose remarks demonstrated that she loved our faith community and it showed.

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. His sister Dot, fellow choir member Don S. and Greg Thomas shared reflections that emphasized the way Tim made everyone feel special when in his company.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of Teri and Tim who were loved throughout our congregation and they will be missed.

This is a difficult time for everyone. If you are feeling isolated or disconnected from your UU community, please reach out to us so that we can assist you. Beyond phone/email/zoom, we can now engage in socially distanced visits in driveways, backyards or parks.

Members of the Caring Team 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 Coordinator August is Jill P.

Principles of Unitarian Universalism

1. Honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Practice justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Accept one another and encourage spiritual growth.
4. Support the freedom to search for what is true and right in life.
5. Ensure all have a vote about matters that concern them.
6. Work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. Care for planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

August Full Moon

In Celtic cultures, the festival of Lughnasadh, or Lammas, takes place at the beginning of August at the midpoint between the Summer Solstice and Autumn Equinox. As the first of the harvest festivals, some celebrate it by blessing loaves of bread and honoring the goddesses of wheat and corn.

In Native American traditions, one of the names for the August Full Moon is the Green Corn Moon. The Green Corn festival is held by Southeastern Woodland tribes such as the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations. These yearly festivals include fasting, feasting, religious ceremonies, music and dance.linn

Join us on Tuesday, August 4th at 7 p.m. on Zoom for our own ritual of music and dance led by Christine M., honoring Selu, the corn mother. A Zoom invitation will be sent out prior to the date. Please let Christine M. or Jane L. know if you would like to attend. Or email fullmoon@uucwnc.org See you then!

GLT

“Hope” is the thing with feathers

By [Emily Dickinson](#)

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.



GLT cont...

On Broadway, in the 1960's, there was a wonderful play called A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum. In 2020 UUCWNC has a “funny thing happened on the way to the poem”. It all started with the idea for a few words in The Beacon on the subject of hope to be inspired by a beautiful piece of poetry by Emily Dickenson. This seemed like a simple enough task until my Unitarian Universalism intruded in the process.

While I admired the ethereal beauty of Ms. Dickenson's poem it was the last stanza that turned me into a poetry critic. Hope, as defined by Ms. Dickenson never asks a crumb of her. Hope however is nothing more than an unrealized yearning for a better tomorrow, and it does indeed ask – and even require – something of you. There is no doubt that hope is a good thing and the times are desperately in need of it. But hope that is nothing more than a dreamy kind of wishful thinking does nothing towards making that hope a reality. That's why it's a favorite platitude of our social and political leaders when they have no real insights on a subject. Hope is not an end unto itself but rather the start of a process. Hope is not a passive emotion. It is a means by which to focus your thoughts and energies towards the goal of actually converting that yearning into reality. Sometimes the issues facing us can seem insurmountable. Covid 19, the economic fallout, police brutality, social injustice, cruelty disguised as patriotism and political/social discord are problems not likely to yield to Ms. Dickenson's version of non-participatory hope. But they are ultimately solvable.

Please take a few moments to mentally withdraw from your daily routine to give some serious thought to where you see us as a community, a city, a state, a nation – even a planet. What are your hopes for improvement in any or all of the above? What resources do you have available to turn your hopes into reality? You will be surprised. You do have the means to make small, and sometimes significant, improvement to those areas where we are not living up to our full potential. Some of your resources (but certainly not all) include generosity in your charitable giving, volunteerism of your time, the “share the plate” initiative right here at this church and, in this very important election year, the ballot box.

Hope is noble and powerful force. It is also quite fragile and at times threatening to those most resistant to change. Do your part in answering hope's call to action. It may be as simple as living your life so as to set an example of how you want the future to look or it may be a call to social/political activism. Either way, do not let your hope dissolve into meaningless “feel good” wishful thinking. Let it be a shining beacon calling you forward to converting our best hopes into tomorrow's reality.

Edward Quinn for

THE GENEROUS LIFE TEAM



Social Justice Advisory Group

The Social Justice Advisory Group (SJAG) has been meeting virtually throughout the Corona Virus Pandemic. The four goals that guide the work of SJAG are each addressed in collaboration with our partners. These goals are: 1) Eradicate racism in our community; 2) Eradicate poverty and wealth inequality in our community; 3) Educate, empower and register people to vote, eliminate partisan gerrymandering and restrictive legislation in NC and increase the number of citizens voting; and 4) Work to eradicate ignorance and stigma by educating the community and advocating for legislation and other forms of protection for LGBTQ+ .

We are living during historically important and challenging times and many of us have been inspired to take action. We are engaging in self-education related to being anti-racist, participating in local and national events aimed at addressing social, racial and economic injustices, and advocating for changes in many of our institutions. Listed below are some, though certainly not all, of the activities SJAG members and supporters have engaged in.

Racial and economic justice:

- Reading books on racism and white supremacy and participating in discussion groups
- Watching movies on the history of racism and participating in church sponsored discussion groups
- Participating in meetings and events sponsored by our partners and collaborators including but not limited to NAACP, You Can Vote, League of Women Voters , Support the Port, and YWCA
- Participating in local events sponsored by Black Lives Matter, the NAACP, lowercase leaders protests and other gatherings honoring George Floyd and calling for local changes.
- Participating in the YWCA 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge
- Donating to local and national organizations that are focused on social justice work
- Writing letters to local officials advocating for local changes (mural, street names, confederate statues, park name change)

Voting Rights:

- Working with You Can Vote to educate community members about the importance of voting and registering people to vote
- Working with You Can Vote by calling people and encouraging them to fill out the census
- Working with League of Women Voters to offer an educational session at Quest about the mail-in ballot and other forms of voting

We'd love to have more UUs joining us in these efforts. Upcoming social justice events are listed on the Facebook page for CLEAR (Community Linking and Educating against Racism), as well as in the UU Weekly Digest and on the NAACP website. There are roles for each of us even in these physically restrictive times. What will your role be?

SJAG MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY EVENING OF THE MONTH. ALL ARE WELCOME. SEND A NOTE TO SJAG@UUCWNC.ORG FOR AN INVITATION ZOOM LINK.

AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	27 1:00 PM MET (Z1)	28 1:00 PM MET (Z1) 5:00 PM BOT (Z1)	29 7:00 PM The Hate You Give Discussion (Z2)	30 3:00 PM The Hate You Give Discussion (Z2)	31 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning 1:00 PM JUULIETs Lunch (Z1)	1
2 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	3	4 5:00 PM Social Justice Advisory (Z1)	5	6	7 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	8
9 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	10	11	12	13	14 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	15
16 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	17 2:00 PM Poetry Group (Z1)	18 4:00 PM Exec Committee Meeting (Z1)	19 5:00 PM Connections (Z1)	20 4:00 PM Connections (Z1)	21 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	22
23 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	24	25 5:00 PM BOT (Z1)	26	27	28 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning 1:00 PM JUULIETs Lunch (Z)	29
30 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	31	1 5:00 PM Social Justice Advisory (Z1)	2	3	4 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	5

