

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WILMINGTON

## BEACON SEPTEMBER 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**

### SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>SEP. 6</b>	<b>ELIZABETH ANN TERRY</b>
<b>SEP. 13</b>	<b>REV. CHERYL</b>
<b>SEP. 20</b>	<b>REV. CHERYL</b>
<b>SEP. 27</b>	<b>REV. CHERYL</b>

### UUCWNC BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: BETH O'CONNELL

VICE PRES: BECKI SCHREIBER

SECRETARY: CORNELIA MAXTED

TONY BARNEY

JERRY HURWITZ

JIM LUDWIG

KAMI O'KEEFEE

ELIZABETH MCLEOD

RAINE MORGAN

TREASURER: JOHN GRIGSBY

## Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, welcome to the new church year, one that is unlike any other in our lifetime (unless you are over 102 years old.) COVID-19 has changed our world in ways that were unimaginable 7 months ago. Who would have guessed that so much of our lives would be lived virtually?

By now, most of us are experienced Zoom users, and we are grateful for the technology that allows us to stay connected to friends and family. Here at UUCWNC, Zoom is the way we worship together and weave many of the threads of our church life. Our committees meet virtually and continue to provide opportunities for learning and sharing. Thank you to all the program planners and tech gurus who allow the church to remain open even if the building is closed.

### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS NAMED**

Your 2020-21 Board includes six new members (Tony Barney, Jerry Hurwitz, Elizabeth Macleod, Raine Morgan, Kami O’Keefe, and Becki Schreiber) along with three existing members - me (Beth O’Connell), Jim Ludwig, and Cornelia Maxted. At our initial meeting in July, the Board elected officers; I am this year’s President, Becki is Vice President, and Cornelia is Secretary. This is the first time in almost 2 years that we have had a fully staffed Board and I want to thank everyone for their willingness to serve the church.

We have our work cut out for us this year. After spending several years exploring how to be a policy-focused board and writing a Policy Manual, we now plan to tackle some other areas related to church governance. We would like to work on three new initiatives: setting up a process for inter-committee communication by re-instating a Program Council; creating a process to strengthen communication between the Board and church committees; and reviving our Committee on Ministry to be able to evaluate the church “ministries” as well as to provide on-going feedback to the minister.

As church leaders, the Board was proud to approve a statement on systemic racism, which was brought into the national spotlight through several heartbreaking murders of black men and women by police officers. This statement, printed on the church website, says that “we believe that Black Lives Matter, and commit ourselves to the work before us to proclaim and protect the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and to seek justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We further pledge to continue to examine our own actions as we strive to confront and dismantle racism in ourselves and in our community.” All Board members take this statement seriously and have committed to learn more about and work toward becoming anti-racist. In addition, we are grateful to the Social Justice Advisory Group for the opportunities they are providing to help all church members meet this pledge. Please see other articles in this month’s Beacon, as well as announcements each week in the Weekly Update for more information.

As you can see, we on the Board will have a busy yet exciting year – and we believe our church will be the better for it. And speaking of making things better, don’t forget to VOTE this year. Vote early if possible – either by mail or in person. But, whatever your plan for voting, VOTE because your vote matters this year more than ever!!

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

If these were “normal” times we would be preparing for our annual Homecoming. The church would be abuzz with the sounds of a new year beginning. The hospitality crew would be getting tables and chairs and linens ready for our potluck lunch. There would be sounds of young people in the hallways as they begin their faith formation journeys, some for the very first time. The worship team, tired from a long month of outstanding services, would find the energy to match the excitement of returning to ordinary time. I would be looking forward to seeing faces and giving hugs to people I have not seen for the past few weeks as I return from my summer break (usually a couple of pounds heavier from eating my way through New York City, oh how I miss the food!).

But these are not “normal” times and there will not be a potluck. The halls will not be filled with the sounds of young people. And I won't be giving hugs to people and I didn't even visit New York City. We won't be returning to ordinary time of two services (can't say I miss them). So how do we have a Homecoming when we are not returning to our physical church home?

I think this Homecoming, points out to us the real meaning of a congregation. The church is a building, but a congregation is its people. A congregation is a community, and if we have learned anything in these times it is that communities can come in all shapes and forms; they don't need to be physical gatherings of people. A community is a group of people with a shared purpose who care about the wellbeing of one another. A community doesn't need a building for it to exist, as long as the community exists for its people.

We still exist as a community of people with a shared purpose - to be with one another as we care for each other and care for the world. While we have had to adapt in many ways, our community has remained strong. In fact, our adaptations have helped us know each other in different and sometimes better ways. Think about breakout rooms as our way of doing coffee hour and the people you have met you might not ever have known if we met in person. Think about people who come to services from all parts of the country, and the people we have reconnected with because we meet online. Some adaptations have been for the better. Still, I think we would rather meet in person; I know I would. We needed to adapt to a changing world, and we did. It's a good lesson for us to always remember.

We do not know what the coming year will bring. So many things are going on in the world around us, I need not name them all for you. And through it all we will need one another, perhaps in ways we've never imagined. What gives me comfort in these changing times is that we exist and will continue to exist as a community because you and I make it so.

We may not be coming “home” to a building this September, one day we shall, but in many ways, we are always coming home. Whenever, however we are together our spirits find a home and that is why we are here. Welcome home, everyone.

Many kind blessings,  
Rev. Cheryl



## Note from your Faith Formation Director

Thoughts on how our UUCWNC Religious Education program may support families with young children and youth, or.... creating *Quality Apart Time*.

Close your eyes for a moment and think about where you were a few months ago, in early spring, when you first heard of the corona virus. It was in China. And then Europe. It was foreign and far away. But we anxiously awaited the inevitable first cases in America. Then there they were in Seattle and New York City. Still, far from us. Recall what your thoughts were when you first learned that our local schools were closing for two weeks. A momentary flash of disbelief that *this was happening to you*. And then the closing was extended and suddenly kids were not going to return to school for the rest of the year. Netbooks replaced notebooks. Dishes were cleared from the counter to be replaced by screens, keyboards and elbows jostling for a resting place.

And here we are. Families with children and youth thrive on a certain level of apartness. The work/school daily routine *normally* includes hours built in of being apart from each other. You are at work. They are at school. You meet in the late afternoon or early evening to tell each other about your time apart. You prepare a meal and eat it together. You help with homework and read a book and say goodnight with a comforting tuck-in. Well, now our normal may not include that time apart. If your kids are schooling from home/at home and you are juggling an ever more precarious work schedule, your whole relationship dynamic with them is changed. Peer groups become more important to our youth just as finding opportunities for expression outside of the home diminish during the pandemic.

My goal with the youth Religious Education classes this fall is to provide that opportunity for expression outside of the home and outside of school. To develop a safe place where our youth are confident that their voices are heard, and their ideas respected. I can understand the reluctance of any parent to add to the time spent in front of a screen for their kids, so I'll work hard to make the additional screen time welcomed as a channel for creative energy and a brief respite for everyone. Remember, Kindergarten thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade will meet via zoom at 9:30 Sunday mornings for ***CartUUns***. 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade will meet at 11:30 Sundays for ***Principled Music/The Fifth Dimension***. I will be sending zoom links to parents in the coming weeks – the links will remain unpublished to help protect the privacy of our youth.

Leslie O'Connor

*Director, Lifespan Religious Education*  
leslie@uucwnc.org



## 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, Maxwell Feinbloom and Barbara Vanduyne.

Maxwell Feinbloom, passed on August 15. He was the beloved husband of our good friend Etta Breit, hospice chaplain and guest speaker at our UU services.

A member for decades, Max made many contributions to our congregation. He was involved in the construction of the original sanctuary, now Dobkin Hall. Another one of his significant contributions was the design and construction of the lovely wooden triptych, standing at the front of the sanctuary. This triptych affirms the universal nature of beliefs in the symbols of various religious traditions as well as our own. Max also created the candle box, which holds the candles that illuminate our joys and concerns.

Music was a very important aspect of Max's life. He played both piano and viola. He performed on the viola with community groups and also participated in chamber music groups for our congregation. Max's sweet disposition and thoughtful and witty conversation will be missed by those who knew him.

It is also with sadness that we report the passing of our beloved, long time member Barbara Vanduyne on August 22. Her transition was peaceful at the home of her daughter Kacey and with the support of her sons, Steve and Jeff.

Joining our congregation in 1970, Barbara was one of our earliest UU members and among one of our first volunteer RE teachers. She loved children and worked as a librarian at Bellamy Elementary School for many years. She was also an active and compassionate member of the Caring Committee until her own health issues required her to hand off those responsibilities.

Barbara was the founder of Full Moon, a group that has met for over 25 years to celebrate women, the cycles of nature and the spiritual paths of the ancient goddesses. She was a mentor to many women on their spiritual journeys and hosted numerous gatherings in her home. Additionally, Barbara held a weekly yoga group in her home, where participants practiced their warrior and cat/cow positions to the accompaniment of singing bowls and chants. For years, Barbara ran a bed and breakfast in her home hosting Unitarian Universalist guests who were traveling to Carolina Beach. Barbara was a beloved and vibrant part of our community and we will all miss her joyous spirit.

Caring Committee cont...

These COVID times are difficult 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 and yes even the US Postal Service, 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., Kami O., Jill P., Betsy R., and Rev. Cheryl M. W. The September Coordinator of the Caring Committee is Jeannie L.



## September Full Moon

Our September Full Moon Gathering will take place on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7 pm on Zoom. Kelley W. will lead the ritual in memory of our founder, muse, and dear friend, Barbara V. She requests that participants bring an item, memory, or story about Barbara to share in the circle. A Zoom invitation will be sent out to those who wish to participate.



All women of any age are welcomed to these gatherings. If you would like to attend and are not on the mailing list, please contact [fullmoon@uucwnc.org](mailto:fullmoon@uucwnc.org) for additional information.

**GLT**

## HAVING FAITH IN OUR FUTURE



It seems like eons ago when we made the decision to delay our traditional April Pledge Drive. The hope was that given three or four months delay this virus would be under control and we would be able to enjoy each other's company face to face as we refocused our financial future. Alas, this is not to be. The COVID virus still rages and the kind of social gathering we had envisioned is simply out of the question.

This article denotes the official kick-off of our January 1, 2021 – June 1, 2021 half year pledge drive. Within a few weeks you will receive a pledge card and cover letter asking you to make a financial commitment for the six-month period referred to above. This will carry the congregation through to our normal fiscal year end of June 30, 2021 and back to our normal annual cycle.

It is convenient and conventional to refer to a specific building as “the church” but we are all aware that the term is much more encompassing than that. We, the congregation, are the church and it is this church family that controls our destiny. The totality of our collective pledges (plus the money put in the collection plate by not-yet-members) make up the bulk of the financial resources available to keep our church healthy and vibrant.

When you consider your financial pledge, we respectfully ask that you reflect on the fact that the financial burden of this pandemic has hit some of us harder than others. Many have lost income due to illness, from lay-offs and job losses caused by the pandemic. These people, our brothers and sisters, maybe under considerable stress to formalize their pledges this year. If you are in the fortunate group not severely impacted, please consider expanding your pledge by whatever margin you can.

Together, as a Unitarian Universalist Congregation, our faith will get us through this and towards a hopeful future.

Ed Quinn  
GLT Member



## Social Justice Advisory Group

During the past year the Social Justice Advisory Group (SJAG) has had two Chairpersons. We thank Pam Cook and Becki Schreiber for the wonderful job they have done with working on a SJAG handbook, setting agendas, running meetings, and making sure the work of the group went forward.

Starting in September, Marla Barthen and Peter Rawitsch will Co-Chair SJAG. They will serve in those roles for two years. Here is the new online format for their meetings:

On the **first Tuesday of each month** at 5:30pm, they will host a **“Discussions and Decisions”** session. *This Zoom meeting is open to everyone in the congregation.* If you have a Social Justice idea or activity for our community that you need help developing, bring it to this meeting.

Each meeting will start with a chalice lighting, a reading, brief check-ins, and a review of the SJAG Mission Statement. Then you will have an opportunity to present your idea and get feedback from the group. The goal is to provide you with some options to help you make a decision on how you would like to proceed with your Social Justice idea or activity.

Each meeting will be limited to 2 presentations. Sign up in advance to present, so your idea can be announced in the Weekly Digest before the meeting.

On the **third Tuesday of each month** at 5:30pm, Marla and Peter will host **“Social Justice in Lower Cape Fear.”** This Zoom session will be an opportunity for our congregation to learn about what’s happening with Social Justice in the Lower Cape Fear area.

Each announcement, report, or update will be limited to 3 minutes and one presentation slide. Your contact information will be added to the Zoom Chat Box so people can learn more about your topic. You can either read your announcement or have Marla or Peter read it. Sign up in advance to present, so your topic can be announced in the Weekly Digest before the meeting.

**“Social Justice in Lower Cape Fear”** will also be broadcast live and recorded on the **Side With Love - Lower Cape Fear Facebook Group**. Side With Love is a private Facebook Group. Only members of our congregation can join the group and view the broadcast. Click here for more information about the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sidewithlovelowercapefear>

### September dates:

Tuesday, September 1 at 5:30pm - **“Discussions and Decisions”** Zoom meeting  
Sign up to present by August 25. *This Zoom meeting is open to everyone in the congregation.*

Tuesday, September 15 at 5:30pm - **“Social Justice in Lower Cape Fear”** Zoom session  
Sign up to present by September 8. *This session will also be broadcast live and recorded on the Side With Love - Lower Cape Fear Facebook Group. You can watch it later at your convenience.*

Sign up to present at one or both of the Zoom events by contacting:

Marla Barthen - [marlacrisp@yahoo.com](mailto:marlacrisp@yahoo.com) or Peter Rawitsch - 518-366-3522 [rawitschp@mac.com](mailto:rawitschp@mac.com)

The Zoom link for both events is <https://bit.ly/2PuzqPA>

## Take the 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge

Have you heard of the YWCA's 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge? The YWCA's vision is for peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people. They've been at it since 1914.

UU Members who have started the Challenge will be sharing their insights at Quest on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be discussing options you have for taking the Challenge. [See [UUCWNC website for zoom link to Quest meeting](#)]. Check out the YWCA's website (Link: <https://www.ywca-lowercapefear.org/what-were-doing/racial-justice/21-day-challenge-2020>) for an overview of the content.

As the adage goes: it takes 21 days to develop a good habit though no one will be held to tackling this in 21 days! You, along with thousands of other people across the US and beyond can commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism. The Challenge will raise your awareness, change your understanding, and shift the way you behave.

Remember when color blind was a progressive way to think? We've evolved. One must be anti-racist. Alan Alda provided advice on how to change perspectives: "Begin challenging your own assumptions. Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while or the light won't come on."

UUCWNC's social action team is providing several ways to support you in taking the Challenge.

- Learn more about the challenge during the Quest session on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm
- See the Challenge: <https://www.ywcaofcleveland.org/21-day-race-equity-challenge/>
- Share ideas on ways to support yourself in committing to the Challenge as you develop a new habit of carving out some time each day for your own research, further reflection and action on racial equity and social justice.
- Sign up for the Challenge with an email to Leslie O'Connor [leslie@uucwnc.org](mailto:leslie@uucwnc.org).
- Learn about a 4-week class where you can join other UU's who have accepted the challenge. Zoom meetings will be Monday evenings: Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Can we get 70% of our members to accept the challenge? The more we get, the stronger the light will be.



*"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*  
Isaiah 40: 29-31



NHC RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
INVITES YOU TO A

## **FAITH LEADERS CRM WORKSHOP (COMMUNITY RESILIENCE MODEL)**

- Want to learn how to recognize trauma in yourself and others ?
- Want to be more empathetic and hopeful?
- Want to learn how to sustain your own resilience during these troubling times?

**LEARN HOW TO BETTER TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF  
AND MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGREGATION.**

September 25 11am - 12:30

OR

September 29 6 - 7:30pm

**The Resiliency Workshops for Faith Leaders will be virtual.**

**Links to register for either date are below:**

September 25 at 11am: <https://www.eventbrite3.com/e/117975091675>

September 29 at 6pm: <https://www.eventbrite3.com/e/117976243119>



SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 12:30 PM Quest Facilitator (Z1) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 5:00 PM GLT (Z1)	<b>2</b> 5:00 PM BOT Sub Group (Z2)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Caring for the Caretaker (Z1) 1:00 PM MET (Z2) 1:00 PM ROMEO Lunch (O) 5:30 PM SJAG (O)	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM BOT Sub Group (Z2) 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting (Z1)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Board Retreat
<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:00 PM Exec Committee Meeting (Z1) 5:30 PM SJAG (O)	<b>16</b> 5:00 PM BOT Sub Group (Z2) 5:00 PM Connections (Z1)	<b>17</b> 4:00 PM Connections (Z1)	<b>18</b> 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM SSC - Parking Lot
<b>20</b> 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	<b>21</b> 2:00 PM Poetry Group (Z1)	<b>22</b> 1:00 PM MET (Z2) 1:00 PM ROMEO Lunch (O) 5:00 PM BOT (Z1)	<b>23</b> 4:00 PM Caring for the Caretaker (Z1) 5:00 PM BOT Sub Group (Z2)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning 1:00 PM JUULIETs Lunch (Z)	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 1:00 PM Quest (Z1)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 PM BOT Sub Group (Z2)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00 AM Weekly Cleaning 6:00 PM RZ set up 7:30 PM Roy Zimmerman Concert (S)	<b>3</b>