



THE BEACON

A Voice for Liberal Religion in Southeastern North Carolina



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LIGHT A CHALICE FOR THE NEW YEAR

www.uucwnc.org ♦ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington
4313 Lake Ave, Wilmington NC 28403 ♦ 910-392-6454

Table of Contents

NO WORDS THIS YEAR3

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION VS. NEW YEAR’S VISION4

ANNOUNCING THE COMMITTEE *FOR* MINISTRY5

CARING COMMITTEE.....6

THE NEW BEACON NEWSLETTER AND OUR UU STORY.....7

JANUARY FULL MOON.....7

ANNOUNCING THE NEW PROGRAM COUNCIL8

JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR.....9

BOARD OF TRUSTEES DIRECTORY9

Office Hours

MINISTER

REV. CHERYL M. WALKER

TUESDAY 11AM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY 11AM – 4PM

THURSDAY 11AM – 4PM

AND BY APPOINTMENT

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

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

December Worship Schedule	
Jan. 3	Rev. Greg Thomas
Jan. 10	Rev. Cheryl
Jan. 17	Rev. Cheryl
Jan. 24	Rev. Cheryl
Jan. 31	Rev. Cheryl



*Subject to change - please call ahead

NO WORDS THIS YEAR

Most of us have long given up on the idea of New Year's resolutions, for good reason. We didn't keep them very long and just felt bad about not keeping them. At my sister's urging I started having a word for the year. That worked pretty well for some years and not so well for others. Last year, 2020, a year that will live in infamy, was one of the years that my word didn't work as well. My word was commitment, and it was okay until March. After all I did get married in February, that's a commitment.

What I learned from last year is to not have resolutions or words or anything. What we all learned from last year is just how much we are not in control of things. Think back to this time last year, were you thinking about a worldwide pandemic that would change our daily living? Of course not. According to the World Health Organization the first cases weren't reported until January 11th. The first case, in the United States, wasn't reported until January 20th and the first death in the US was reported on March 3rd. No one, this time last year, was thinking about COVID19. And yet this virus changed the world and is still changing the world.



So, as I approach this new year, I don't have any resolutions nor words. What I have is what I have every day of every year, faith and hope. I have faith in myself to cope with whatever life will bring. I will not always do it easily or well. But I have faith that I will deal with whatever life gives me. I have faith in humanity. That faith is often tested, and I have no historical reason to keep having faith in humanity. But I have faith, nonetheless. I have faith that we will learn something and get better at a lot of things. And finally, I have faith in the God of my heart. I have faith that God's love is abundant and shared with all. I have faith that my God loves me.

And I have hope. I have hope that we will build a world of peace and justice where everyone is affirmed and loved. I have hope that we will build societies where no one goes hungry, no one is homeless, everyone has access to medical care they can afford, that each child has the opportunity to be educated well, and that we no longer think war is an acceptable answer.

I have no idea what this year will bring, no one does. I am sure there will be times of joy and laughter and times of sorrow and tears. Why would this year be any different from any other years I do know some things about the coming year. I know that we all will need each other. I know that nothing will change unless we put ourselves to changing them. I know that love will still be the most powerful force there is. I know we are capable of great things if we believe we can do great things. I know that this congregation is kind, caring and loving and worthy of our dedication to it. I know that this is all I need to know. Whatever else life brings we'll just have to see.

Many kind blessings,

Rev. Cheryl

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION VS. NEW YEAR'S VISION

I've given up the practice of making a resolution for the new year. For the most part, I rarely made it past January without breaking the promise to myself. And it felt like I was looking for something that was wrong with me and trying to fix it. Not a good feeling. Especially after I fail at making the change. A New Year's resolution does not have the accountability that I need to make changes in myself.

If I've heard it once, I've heard it a thousand times: "Ugh, I'm so ready for 2020 to be over!". But how is 2021 going to be any different? If it is to be different, the change must come from me. If I set a *vision* of how 2021 is going to be, I can then make goals toward the realization of the vision as the year progresses, rather than packing them all into the first few weeks of January. I can seek opportunities to build my vision around my day-to-day life.

I've been inspired by leading the Spiritual Practices series of workshops, and I want to set my vision for 2021: this will be the year that I establish a spiritual practice for myself. One that will deepen my connections to the sacred and to my religious community of fellow seekers. One that will improve my teaching skills and resources and make me a better DRE, a better parent, a better daughter. One that will enable me to treat myself with kindness and patience. Self-care is important if I'm to be all these things to so many people.

What is your vision for 2021? Keep it vague enough for your creative energy to adapt it to the moment. Recognize opportunities to manifest your vision. And be kind and patient to yourself.

Shalom,

Leslie O'Connor
Director, Religious Education



ANNOUNCING THE COMMITTEE *FOR* MINISTRY

Our Congregation is about to restart a Committee For Ministry (CFM). The purpose of a CFM is to ensure our congregation is living its mission. The ministry of UUCWNC is a shared responsibility among several leadership stakeholders that are central to our mission. Our congregation is most healthy when all these stakeholders understand, fulfill and are accountable for their contribution to the mission. Our Committee *For* Ministry is typically referred to as Committee *On* Ministry in other congregations. We have intentionally selected the word *For* to indicate a committee in support of and partnership with the ministry.

We can think of the CFM as a sort of a doctor for the church. It performs or orchestrates wellness checks for the various stakeholders that minister to the church’s membership. When there is something not going well in some aspect of the ministry, the committee conducts or orchestrates intervention to make a situation better. It is important to emphasize that healthy organizations, like healthy people are examining themselves on a regular basis. Then they use the examination to determine what will make them healthier and stronger. Once in place this becomes a virtuous cycle of self-examination and improvement.

The Virtuous Performance Cycle

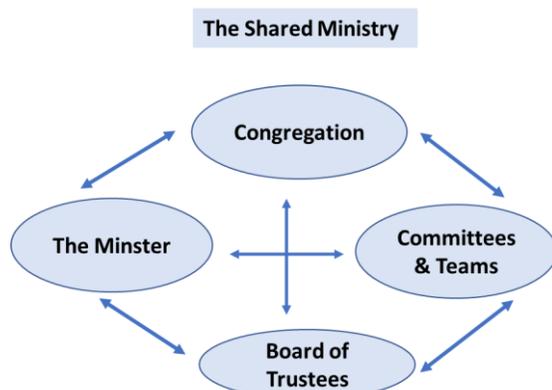


Most simply put, the CFM seeks objective feedback on two questions for each stakeholder in the church’s ministry:

- What do you appreciate about the ministry/what is going well?
- What could we do to improve this aspect of the ministry/what needs some attention?

The Shared Responsibility of the Ministry

Our congregation, like any organization, is a system. The health of the system is dependent upon each stakeholder in the system fulfilling its responsibilities and working productively with other stakeholders. The primary stakeholders in our church’s shared ministry include, the Minister, the congregation, church committees & teams and the Board to Trustees.



Our process will include evaluation of and feedback delivery to each stakeholder of the shared ministry over the course of a three-year cycle. Each stakeholder of the ministry will be expected to create improvement goals and actions based on the evaluation and feedback.

Forming the Committee For Ministry

Our CFM will be comprised of six committed congregants who represent a diversity of views, make up and perspectives of the congregation. The BOT and Rev Cheryl will invite people who they feel capable of helping us get this effort going to join the Committee. We will also invite members who are interested in participating to nominate themselves. The BOT plans to finalize the CFM selection process and other implementation details in January and launch the effort early in 2021. We look forward to this effort as a key contributor to our being a healthy and vibrant congregation.

Jerry Hurwitz
Board of Trustees Member

CARING COMMITTEE

Acting in concert with the minister during the past month, the caring team has provided support, care and assistance to UU members and friends who have experienced illness, surgery and personal losses. We wish Robert D., Margaret A., Nancy G. and John G. our very best wishes as they recover from surgery and send condolences to those whose friends and family members passed away. We have continued to coordinate preparation and delivery of meals to some of our members who are experiencing illness. We have sent dozens of cards and made many phone calls to reach out to those who could not be with their families during the holidays due to the restrictions required by the pandemic.

I want to thank all those who have joined the Caring team in our efforts to reach out with compassionate care with meals: Fran Strauss, Tina Baldrige, Sally Freeman, Deb File, Jo Ann Skinner, Sylvia Quinn, Sharon Moore, Robin Middleton, Pat Wilkie, Stacey Kitt, Beth O'Connell, Su-Min Kreitner.



With a vaccine coming this year, we can hope, not just with faith, but with expectation, that we will be able to live our lives fully and interact with our families, our friends and each other. That will also mean that the activities of the Caring team can once again include hospital and long-term care visits, rides to church and doctor's appointments and shopping for those who are recuperating at home.

Please let one of us know if you or someone else would appreciate a card, a call or a meal this month. Jeanette Koshar is the January Coordinator of the Caring Committee. Other members are: Cathy Campau, Carol Anne Davis, Diane Halley, Jeannie Lennon, Kami O'Keeffe, Jill Pollock, Betsy Randall-David, and Rev. Cheryl M. Walker.

THE NEW BEACON NEWSLETTER AND OUR UU STORY

This year the Beacon newsletter has been updated with a couple of new changes:

- 1) a cover page that reflects who we are and what's happening in our world each month
- 2) a table of contents to more easily see what's included in the newsletter
- 3) committee titles replaced by article titles that more accurately reflect the content
- 4) an email send out that connects directly to the Beacon on the web. All it takes is a single click



We are also launching a new feature article: **Our UU Story**. This is a great opportunity for more of us to get to know each other on a deeper level. Anyone can submit an article about their own story, whether it is about what you believe, your journey to UU, or your experiences on the road to social justice and the beloved community. To learn more about how to submit please contact Heidi Kaufman at heidika60@gmail.com.

If you have not been reading the Beacon newsletter please take the time to check it out this year. In it you will find more in depth expressions of what we are planning, thinking and feeling as a community. If you are not receiving the Beacon Newsletter please contact Julie Burcham at julie@uucwnc.org.

JANUARY FULL MOON

January brings the Wolf Moon, named for wolves howling at the moon. This is a good month to work on developing the inner self, connecting with spirits of our paths, and focusing on spirituality and self-discovery. It is also a month for creativity, and finishing up creative projects.

In the Hindu religion, a most sacred pilgrimage, Kumbh Mela, is celebrated this month. Kumbh Mela is actually held in 1 of 4 places, every twelve years. This year, it will be in Haridwar. The other 3 places are Prayag, Ujjain and Nashik.



Join us at our January Full Moon Gathering on Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Christine M will lead our ritual. A Zoom invitation will be sent out prior to that date.

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 for additional information.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW PROGRAM COUNCIL

By Beth O'Connell, President of the Board of the Trustees

Welcome to our new Program Council, a group established by the Board of Trustees to foster coordination and communication among groups/committees whose activities intersect and overlap as they develop programs and events. The Council will be chaired by the vice president of the Board of Trustees (BOT) – currently Becki Schreiber - and includes leaders of committees/teams that develop multiple programs for congregational participation. Currently, this group includes leaders from the Caring, Generous Life, Lifespan Religious Education, Membership, Membership Engagement, Operational Wellness and Support, Quest, Social Justice Advisory Group, and Worship teams. The Council will meet three times per year: twice in the fall and once in the spring.



The Program Council, which held its first meeting on Dec. 7, is a new incarnation of a previous committee that disbanded several years ago. The BOT decided to revive the Council because we believe that bringing team leaders together serves an important function for their respective committees, and it also helps inform the BOT of planned activities. We decided to try making the Council smaller than it was previously, but will circulate program planning news and ideas to leaders of ALL committees/teams, the Minister, and the BOT. In addition, meetings will be open to all. For further information on the Council, please contact becki.schreiber@gmail.com.



JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	2 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)
3 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	4 4:00 PM Spiritual Practice (Z1) 5:00 PM Share the Plate Committee Meeting (OZ)	5 5:30 PM SJAG (OZ)	6	7	8 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	9 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)
10 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	11 4:00 PM Spiritual Practice (Z1)	12 1:00 PM ROMEO Lunch (O) 5:30 PM GLT (Z1)	13	14	15 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	16 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)
17 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	18 OFFICE CLOSED: MLK JR Day 4:00 PM Spiritual Practice (Z1)	19 4:00 PM Exec Committee Meeting (Z1) 5:30 PM SJAG (OZ) 6:00 PM Welcome Class (Z1)	20 6:00 PM Welcome Class (Z1)	21 2:00 PM Poetry Group (Z1)	22 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	23 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)
24 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	25 9:00 AM BEACON ITEMS DUE	26 1:00 PM ROMEO Lunch (O) 5:00 PM BOT (Z1)	27	28	29 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	30 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)
31 9:30 AM Worship Rehearsals (Z2) 10:30 AM Sunday Worship (Z2) 11:20 AM UUCWNC Youth Group (Z1) 12:00 PM Quest (Z2)	1 5:00 PM Program Council (Z1)	2 5:30 PM SJAG (OZ)	3	4	5 9:00 AM Weekly Cleaning	6 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsals (Z2)

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