
WEEKLY DIGEST

January 18, 2024

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington

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- Stroller to Loan

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In the Church

Sunday Worship, January 21

Sunday Worship Service will be January 21 at 10:30am. Service Led by Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, *I Wish I Hadn't*: while the year is still in its first month, how are you doing with your resolutions to make this year different? And when you invariably fall short of those resolutions, what will your next step be?

To join via Zoom, please go to our website at www.uucwnc.org and click the link at the top-center of the page, or click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93934181063?pwd=SE5YUHREbnlVaHU3NWs2akh5ekErdz09>

Dial by your Location 1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 93934181063.

Quest, January 21

9:15 in Dobkin Hall, Childcare Provided

On Aging with William Stewart

This is the first of a two-part presentation/discussion of the *biological* aspects of aging. I think most of us have heard about telomeres on the end of chromosomes that shorten with time and eventually cause damage to chromosomes. That is one of ten or so biological mechanisms that contribute to aging. These mechanisms will be discussed (non-technically!) - what they are and how they relate to aging.

Please join us this Sunday for Part 1 as we explore whether aging is inevitable in the animal kingdom, the relationship between aging and chronic diseases, and the nine biological manifestations of aging.

Share The Plate, January 21

In honor of the Martin Luther King holiday, our STP donation goes to the New Hanover County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Founded in 1909, the NAACP's mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil

rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

Objectives include:

- Informing the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination.
- Removing racial discrimination through democratic processes.
- Seeking enactment and enforcement of laws securing civil rights.
- Educating people about their constitutional rights and how to take lawful action.

NAACP committees include:

- **Legal Redress** which investigates allegations of civil rights or social justice violations.
- **Education** that promotes unbiased, equitable education for all children in our public schools.
- **ACTOS** - Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics – a program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students.

Our donation can help the NHC NAACP send local students to the national ACTOS competition and fund three \$2000 scholarships to help high school seniors and college students pay for their college education. For more information, visit nhcnaacp.org and their Facebook page.

Soup Sunday, January 21

Come join us immediately after the service on Sunday, Jan. 21 in Dobkin Hall for this delightful and delicious Fundraiser (and FUN-raiser). Enjoy a variety of soups and desserts while visiting with friends old and new! Donations are \$8.00 per person; children 12 and under eat for free! As always, vegan soups are on the menu.

Thanks to our December cooks: Becki Schreiber, Jo Ann Skinner, Richard Maxted, and Dennis McCulley for last month's soups.

This month we look forward to tasting what Pat Wilke, Doris Chew, Kami O'Keefe, and Carl Middleton have in store for us!

If **you** enjoy making soup, and/or baking yummy desserts, we'd love to have you as one of our 'guest' chefs. Contact Robin Middleton rlmiddle2119@gmail.com for more information.

Calling All Potential RE Volunteers

Calling all Potential Religious Education (RE) Volunteers! Do you think you might be interested in spending time with our Kiddos after they march out to "Go Now in Peace"? Maybe you have experience working with kids. Maybe you're curious but nervous. Regardless, any potential volunteers are invited to join us in the RE classroom on 1/28 following the service. It'll be a chance for you to ask your questions, see their happy sacred space, learn more about hopes and expectations for volunteers, and hopefully alleviate any trepidation! We'll begin around 12:00 pm so you have time to get snacks! And remember, many hands make light work. The more volunteers we have, the more we can rotate participation so we can all be present in church too! Contact Rev. Kelley at revkelley@uucwnc.org for any questions. Thanks all!

Furthering LGBTQ+ Justice

Are you interested in furthering LGBTQ+ Justice in our congregation and community? We are proud to be a UUA recognized Welcoming Congregation, but there is always more that can be done! We're excited to organize a group of congregants who want to contribute to this important work. If you want to hear more about this opportunity, please contact Pam Cook (pamelacook99@gmail.com) or Rev. Kelley Wheat-Rivers (revkelley@uucwnc.org).

JUULIETs, January 26

Let's try something different...

The JUULIETs (Just Unitarian Universalist Ladies Interested in Eating Together) will meet for a potluck lunch on Friday, January 26, 2023, at 1:00pm, at the home of Stacy Kitt. Join us for lunch or just come to chat. We'd love to see you and enjoy your company. JUULIETs is always open to new participants. All women are welcome and we're always open to new members. One of the main purposes of the JUULIETs is to provide a ready-made social circle for women new to the

congregation. We eat, we laugh, and we leave knowing each other a little better. JUULIETs lunches are always an LGBTQ safe space.

Please contact Stacy to RSVP and with any questions: call or text: (518) 495-7436.

February 2024, JUULIETs meeting will be on Friday, January 23, 2023. Location TBA.

The UUCWNC Gallery Presents

The UUCW gallery wall features the art of Reverend Kelley Wheat-Rivers. The first thing Kelley ever remembers wanting to be was an Artist. Although she didn't pursue a career in the field, she still loves to create art whenever she can! Created specifically for this show, these pieces are pen and marker over watercolor. And what makes these pieces extra special is that the watercolor paints used were gifted to Kelley from one of her beloved hospice patients, an artist and retired art teacher.

Kelley and her family cherish this congregation and the loving community they've found here. 30% of any proceeds from sales will be delightfully donated to our congregation to further the amazing work we're doing.

Committee Fair, February 11

Did you know our congregation has 32 committees, teams and social groups who are eager to share how they contribute to the well-being of our congregation, community, and you as a member?

Find out how you can participate in a group or maybe become a member of a committee. For example: Who are the ROMEOs, JUULIETs, and NYRDs? Or what's involved in serving on the Membership Engagement Team (MET)? Or how do I volunteer to be a worship associate?

Finger food will be provided. You can participate in a scavenger hunt and have a chance at winning a raffle prize!

Attention you artistic folks: Do you have something you can contribute to the scavenger hunt raffle? If so, please contact Twink Barr by text (214) 632-3071 or e-mail: tbarr427@gmail.com

Updates for Committees, Teams, and Groups: The Committee for Ministry has sent out several e-mails to your group's e-mail address about participating in the committee fair. If you have not received these e-mails, please check your group's email (e.g. CFM@uucwnc.org). If you have questions, please contact us at CFM@uucwnc.org. We are finalizing plans and need your input. Thanks!

Caring Community

We learned the sad news about the passing last week of Bill Sinkinson, former member, and President of the UUFW Board in the mid90's. Bill was a chef for UNCW and local country clubs, helped open Front Street Brewery, and as manager of the Tidal Creek Co-op was instrumental in its move to the new location. Bill and his wife Diane Withrow were active members of the UUFW congregation for many years; they were both OWL instructors and frequent helpers at Shelter Neck. Their twins Megan and Brook grew up in our RE program and were part of the first naming ceremony at UUFW (performed by Rev Lone Jensen). Our sympathies go out to his family during this painful journey.

Helping Hands

Variety Show

Just for fun let's put on another show.

Whadya say? Is anyone interested?

I bet we have jugglers, magicians, poets, ventriloquists, musicians, dancers, all kinds of entertainers.

Let's get together.

Tina Baldridge

bzsab.baldridge@gmail.com

Social Justice

SHOW UP:

Interfaith Peace Vigil

Sunday, Jan. 21, 3:45-5:00 pm – 1898 Memorial Park, 1018 N. 3rd St., Wilmington

Join us for this interfaith vigil for peace to provide a space of healing, togetherness, and support for our community regarding the current situation in Israel and Palestine. From the organizers: “Creating a sanctuary for prayer, we will commence with interfaith blessings, contemplating the impact of conflicts, fostering unity within our community.” Our own Rev. Kelley Wheat-Rivers will be one of the faith leaders! **Family Friendly Event** with hot chocolate and cookies after the vigil.

Side with Love: Voices of Faith for Reproductive Justice & Bodily Autonomy

Monday, Jan. 22, 10:00 am – NC General Assembly, [16 W. Jones St., Raleigh](#)

On the 51st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, people of faith and conscience will gather for this rally and press conference to proclaim our sacred right to bodily autonomy. This interfaith event will feature UU Speakers Melva Okun, Rev. Sadie Lansdale, and Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson.

SAVE THE DATES:

Education Rally in Raleigh-Leandro Education Plan Oral Arguments

February 22 - NC Supreme Court, Raleigh

We will be gathering with others from around the state to press the NC Supreme Court to (once again) rule that the Leandro Plan needs to be fully funded by the General Assembly. This would bring over \$57 billion to New Hanover County schools and \$26 billion to Brunswick County schools *annually*! We are organizing a bus to take us up there and back, which is being funded by a grant, so the ride is free! Also free lunch and a teach-in. We're looking for singers, as well. Let's "Show Up For Justice" UUCWNC and have an impressive presence at this important event! Contact Peter Rawitsch for further information: rawitschp@mac.com

Poor People's Campaign Mass Mobilization

March 2 - Raleigh and other locations across the country. More information will be forthcoming, but put it on your calendar now!

LEARN MORE & SELF-CARE:

30 Days of Love

Justice work is challenging and advocates/activists need grounding and replenishment to “keep on keepin’ on.” This week marks the start of the UUA's Annual [30 Days of Love](#). Please note the range of spiritual resources and practices that will become available every Monday by 12:00 p.m. EST. This year's weekly themes are as follows:

- WEEK 1 (**Jan. 15-21**) Safety: Decriminalization
- WEEK 2 (**Jan. 22-28**) Re-Imagining: Climate Justice
- WEEK 3 (**Jan. 29 – Feb. 4**) Possibility: Bodily Autonomy (LGBTQIA+, reproductive, gender, and disability justice)
- WEEK 4 (**Feb. 5-11**) Resilience: Democracy & Electoral Justice
- BONUS DAYS (February 12-14) Interdependence: Liberatory Intersections

VOTING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Democracy North Carolina

- Become a [Vote Protector](#). These volunteers are needed to monitor polls in key precincts all over the state for signs of trouble voting on Election Day, including resolving provisional ballot issues and reporting voter intimidation issues to the Vote Protection Hotline. Interested in becoming a vote protector? Click [here](#) to connect with us.
- Become a [Hotline Volunteer](#) to assist with our NC Election Protection Hotline and provide real-time voter information and field voting problems. Volunteers answer calls from voters across the state, documenting problems and working to remove barriers to voting. All volunteers will receive a brief training on NC election law before their first shift. To serve as a hotline volunteer, you should hold a JD, or be currently enrolled in law school, or have prior experience answering a nonpartisan voter hotline. Interested in answering hotline calls this election? Click [here](#) to connect with us.
- Become an [Elections Advocate](#) and help improve elections in your county. Elections Advocates attend, document, and advocate at local meetings where decisions around funding and planning for the elections in that county are decided. They work to protect democracy and defend voter freedoms for every North Carolinian, no matter the political stripe. Interested in becoming an Election Advocate? Click [here](#) to connect with us.

JOIN US:

UUCWNC Social Justice Ministry – PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME and Place!

The next meeting of the Social Justice Ministry of the UUCWNC will be **in person** on **Monday, Feb. 8, 5:30-7:00 pm**. We are meeting at church in **Dobkin Hall**. For more information about our Social Justice Ministry or any of these announcements and events, contact Michael Sheridan at mjsheridan08@gmail.com.

UU Justice NC's Friday Action Hour – PLEASE NOTE NEW ZOOM LINK!

Friday, Jan. 19, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Join Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson and other NC UU's to learn about current social justice issues and take action. [Michael Sheridan is the sponsor for this week's Friday Action Hour!] *****NEW***** **Zoom Link:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87452791684>

STAY INFORMED:

If you are interested in showing up for justice in New Hanover County and around the state, sign up for our **UU Action Alert**. The Action Alert emails will notify you about late-breaking rallies, marches, demonstrations that miss the deadline of the weekly UU Digest. Contact Peter Rawitsch at rawitschp@mac.com to be added to this important email list.

In the Community

Stroller to Loan

Are you a new grandparent with an out-of-town grandchild? I have a wonderful one-hand-opening stroller to loan you for their visits that I loved. Then pass it on. Contact: kamiokeeffe@gmail.com

On the Calendar

1/18/2024	9:00 AM	PCP (C1)	Classroom 1
	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
	11:30 AM	ROMEO Lunch (O)	Off Campus
	2:00 PM	Poetry Group (Z2)	Zoom 2
1/19/2024	1:00 PM	Mah Jongg (D)	Dobkin Hall
	6:00 PM	CFM (C1)	Classroom 1
1/21/2024	9:15 AM	Quest (D)	Dobkin Hall
	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship (S&Z)	Sanctuary & Zoom
	10:30 AM	Youth Religious Ed	Classrooms
	12:00 PM	Newcomer's Class & Lunch (S)	Sanctuary
	12:00 PM	Soup Sunday (D)	Dobkin Hall
1/22/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
1/23/2024	5:00 PM	BOT Meeting (Z)	Zoom 1
1/24/2024	6:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)	Sanctuary
1/25/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
	3:00 PM	Caring Committee (C1)	Classroom 1



To get your event on the calendar, send an email to office@uucwnc.org with the name of the event, day & time, and the room requested. If you require a Zoom meeting, please include that in your request.



To submit an item to the UU Digest please email it to: uudigest@uucwnc.org.
(Submissions must be received by Wednesday at 5:00pm.)

For more information: <https://www.uucwnc.org/newsletter-faq/>



For Secure Member Directory:

<https://www.uucwnc.org/serve/member-directory-login/>