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# ***WEEKLY DIGEST***

*February 15, 2024*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington

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## **In the Church**

- Sunday Worship, February 18
- Quest, February 18
- Share The Plate, February 18
- Soup Sunday, February 18
- NYRDs, February 17
- Search for an Arborist
- The UUCWNC Art Wall
- Reflections on the Committee Fair
- Help Needed for Annual Book & Plant Sale
- Tacos, Trivia, and Tunes, March 9



## **Social Justice**

## **In the Community**

- Upcoming Caregiver Academy Dementia Education Programs
- Guardian ad Litem Program Open House

## **On the Calendar**

## In the Church

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### Sunday Worship, February 18

Sunday Worship Service will be February 18 at 10:30am. Service Led by Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt: *Thresholding* -- It seems so simple to step across an ordinary threshold from outside to inside, from one room to another. The thresholds of our lives, however, can be quite complicated to step across. And our congregation now stands at a threshold, saying goodbye to Rev. Kathy and preparing to welcome in the spring a new settled minister. What skills can we draw on to get us across the thresholds we face? This is Rev. Kathy's last sermon with us.

To join via Zoom, please go to our website at [www.uucwnc.org](http://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, February 18

9:15 in Dobkin Hall

*The Most Wonderful Out-of-the-Box People in Our Lives*  
with Heidi Kaufman

At some point in our lives, most if not many of us have become acquainted with people who are unique, out of the box, and unconventional in a way that inspires and even changes us. Whether it's a new or different perspective on life, our relationships with other people, or what we believe about the truth, these wonderfully unique souls have made an impression that is hard to forget.

Join us this Sunday as we share stories about the awesomely special unconventional people we have met and befriended along the way. If you would like the link to the TED talk, please email [quest@uucwnc.org](mailto:quest@uucwnc.org).

## Share The Plate, February 18

This week's Share the Plate recipient is The Warming Shelter. Located in Wilmington at Grace United Methodist Church, it opens on extremely cold consecutive nights to offer emergency, overnight beds and comfort to persons experiencing homelessness. Cots, blankets, hot meals, and care items are provided. Hosts offer a non-judgement zone of safety to cultivate an environment of relaxation and peace.

With only 24-48 hours' notice to mobilize, the shelter is organized and hosted by several United Methodist pastors and a dedicated community of volunteers. During the cold snap in January, it was open for six days and hosted 140 guests on the coldest night.

Our financial donation could cover the costs of one night at The Warming Shelter, which exceeds \$550. Financial donations also fund two other initiatives: a downtown drop-in day center open two weekday mornings and mobile shower, washer, and dryer trailers. For more information, please visit:

<https://hoperecoveryilm.org/>

Thanks to your generosity, we recently donated \$728.43 to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund.

## Soup Sunday, February 18

Join us after the service on Sunday, February 18 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 and desserts are on the menu.

Thanks to our January Soup Chefs: Pat Wilkie, Kami O'Keefe, Doris Chew, and Carl Middleton for such a great array of amazing soups.

We are looking forward to tasting what our February cooks: Robin Raim, Jill Pollock, Linda Harootyan, Dot Hodder, and Dennis McCulley have in store for us!

If **you** love to make soup, and/or bake yummy desserts, we'd love to have you as one of our 'guest' chefs. Contact Robin Middleton [rlmiddle2119@gmail.com](mailto:rlmiddle2119@gmail.com) for more information.

## **NYRDs, February 17**

Hello one and all! You are invited to come on Saturday afternoon to our church wide NYRDs game and craft time! Bring games, crafts, and food & drink to share and join us in Dobkin Hall from 3-6pm. Childcare will be provided, but please email Dan Wheat-Rivers at [danbwr@gmail.com](mailto:danbwr@gmail.com) if you're planning to bring kiddos so we can make sure we have enough coverage!

## **Search for an Arborist**

If you know your trees and can help identify the species on the church grounds, please contact Bill Singleton or email [office@uucwnc.org](mailto:office@uucwnc.org).

## **The UUCWNC Art Wall**

It's nearly time for Rev. Kelley's art to be replaced in the sanctuary! All five pieces are watercolor with detailed and unique pen and marker drawings over them. She truly loved creating each piece specifically for our sanctuary and this art show. Each piece is being sold for \$200 with 1/3 being donated to our congregation. Please email [revkelley@uucwnc.org](mailto:revkelley@uucwnc.org) if you have questions or are interested in purchasing any of them. Thank you!

## **Reflections on the Committee Fair**

A great time was had by all at the Committee Fair last Sunday!

The idea for a Committee Fair was a small seed planted in the minds of the Committee for Ministry's (CFM) members last fall. Look what came to fruition on Sunday! Thank you to the 24 committees, teams, and groups, and all who attended. Thanks, MET and Hospitality for the yummy food. Check out the pictures on [UUCWNC's Facebook page!](#)

Thank you, Stacy Kitt, Kathrine Dawson, Mercedes McLaughlin, Paula Waterfield, Ann Stefani, Twink Barr and Ashley Elder for your raffle prize donations and congratulations to all who won the Bingo game.

We are reminded of the African Proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” When our congregation comes together for events such as this, we are reminded of two beliefs:

- Fostering friendships and fun by gathering for social activities.
- Accepting our shared responsibility for the health and well-being of our congregation and the larger UU community.

If you are looking for ways to become more involved in all UUCWNC has to offer, please check out our [Resource Guide](#).

Thank you from the CFM Committee (Margaret Armstrong, Twink Barr, Jeanette Koshar, Mercedes McLaughlin, Robin Raim, and Jo Ann Skinner).

## Help Needed for Annual Book & Plant Sale

This year, because of her involvement with the Settled Minister Search Team, Thea H. will not be able to oversee the Plant sale portion of the **ANNUAL UU BOOK AND PLANT SALE**. You don't have to be an expert to be in charge; you just need a working understanding of house plants, annuals vs perennials, have a good guidebook on hand for answering questions (Thea has a book to lend!), and a bit of retail sensibility for pricing, placement, and organization of displays.

This annual FUNdraiser will take place on **Saturday April 13, 9am-1pm**. Set-up is Friday afternoon from 4-6:30pm. Sales take place on Saturday, and again after the service on Sunday. Please contact Diane Halley or email [office@uucwnc.org](mailto:office@uucwnc.org) if you are willing to help this year as leader of the plant portion for this one-weekend commitment.

And it's not too early for everyone to start cleaning out your bookshelves, and planting seedlings in preparation. We will welcome donations of books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games, as well as seedlings and plants for home and garden. Additional details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support again this year!  
Diane Halley

## Tacos, Trivia, and Tunes, March 9

SAVE THE DATE!!! Coming on March 9 from 5-7 is a fun-raising event featuring Tacos, Trivia, and Tunes. More information is forthcoming!!

## Social Justice

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VOTING – VOTING – VOTING!!!

3 opportunities to support democracy and voting rights:

### **Primary Elections**

**Early Voting: Feb. 15 to March 2. Election Day: March 5.**

Remember to bring your photo ID. To find out what races are on your ballot go to: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) Enter your address to access your races, the candidates, and candidate's responses to questions.

### **UUSJ Democracy Leaders Event**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 pm ET on Zoom.**

The national UU Social Justice is holding their first Zoom meeting to help form our collective democracy plans for 2024. The meeting will include a presentation on a personal plan to help save our democracy, a checklist of 50 pro-democracy actions that congregation members can do, and small group breakout sessions. Register here: <https://uusj.salsalabs.org/UUSJDemocracyLeadersEvent/index.html>

### **UU the Vote 2024 National Launch**

**Thursday, March 14, 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET**

We enter the work of UU the Vote 2024 grounded in the current political and spiritual conditions of our faith and national community. The work that is needed in 2024 will require us to anchor in our power and connect authentically to mobilize UUs, voters, and our local communities. UU the Vote 2024 is an ambitious strategy to grow a powerful pro-democracy majority. Join *Side with Love* for the kick-off of UU the Vote 2024, where you'll learn about the electoral work of State Action

Networks (like North Carolina!), their partners in key states, and more! Register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/15gwk4JrxUO2eEcwBkgI0w2>

SHOW UP:

**Education Rally in Raleigh-Leandro Education Plan Oral Arguments**

**Thursday, February 22 - NC Supreme Court, Raleigh – 2 more seats on the bus left!**

Contact Peter Rawitsch for further information: [rawitschp@mac.com](mailto:rawitschp@mac.com)

**Poor People's Campaign (PPC) Mass Mobilization**

**Saturday, March 2**

Join PPC for their State House Assembly & Moral March in Raleigh. Participants will gather at 10:00 am at the State Capital ([1 E. Morgan Street](#)) and then march at 11:00 am to the NC General Assembly ([16 W. Jones St.](#)). This event is part of a National Day of Mobilization, kicking off the PPC's 2024 voter mobilization campaign. [Register Here.](#)

JOIN US:

**UUCWNC Social Justice Ministry – PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME!**

The next meeting of the Social Justice Ministry of the UUCWNC will be **in person** on **Monday, March 11, 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](mailto:mjsheridan08@gmail.com).

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

**Friday, Feb. 16, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Join Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson and other NC UUs for week three of our Month of Leandro Advocacy leading up to the Leandro Day of Action on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This week, in partnership with [Every Child NC](#) we will write Letters to the Editor *calling out* the injustice of this week's re-hearing of the Leandro Case and *calling for* adequate school funding for every child in our state - no matter their zip code! Join us using this **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](mailto:rawitschp@mac.com) to be added to this important email list.

## **In the Community**

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### **Upcoming Caregiver Academy Dementia Education Programs**

LifeCare Memory Partners, Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association are collaborating to bring dementia education to residents in New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and Columbus counties. Learn more about the [partnership here](#) and find all education programs under Events at [lifecarememorypartners.org](http://lifecarememorypartners.org)

#### **Simple Strategies for Caregivers to Manage Money and Prevent Fraud**

February 15 from 930-1130 AM

Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Corporate, Wilmington

[Registration](#)

#### **Whiteville Caregiver Support Group**

Meets the 2nd Thursday from 1-2:30 PM

Email [kgray@capefearcog.org](mailto:kgray@capefearcog.org) to register.

#### **Virtual Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia**

February 14 at 10AM

[Registration](#)

#### **Savvy Caregiver Workshop**

Weekly: February 27, March 5 and 12

10 AM - 12 PM at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Southport

[Registration](#)

#### **Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors**

March 5 at 10 AM

Topsail Senior Center, Hampstead

[Registration](#)



## Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Weekly: March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4,11

2-3:30 PM, Cape Fear Council of Governments, Wilmington

Email [kgray@capefearcog.org](mailto:kgray@capefearcog.org) to register

**Brooke Banson Vallely** | Coastal Program Manager

Alzheimer's Association, Eastern North Carolina Chapter

5171 Glenwood Ave, #101 | Raleigh, NC 27612

p 919.241.5960

[bbvallely@alz.org](mailto:bbvallely@alz.org) | [alz.org/nc](http://alz.org/nc)

**24-Hour Helpline: 800-272-3900**

## Guardian ad Litem Program Open House

The Guardian ad Litem Program is hosting an Open House for community members to learn more about volunteering as a child advocate. The event will take place in our offices at 320 Chestnut (6<sup>th</sup> Floor) on Thursday, February 29 (drop in between 4:30 and 6:30) and Friday, March 1 (drop in between 11 and 1).

Our volunteers are screened and trained to represent the best interests of children involved in the court process due to experiencing neglect or abuse. There are approximately 150 GAL volunteers representing over 350 children in New Hanover and Pender Counties, but more volunteers are needed. Please contact **Linda Bialaszewski** (*she, her*), Guardian ad Litem District Administrator Sixth Judicial District for the North Carolina Judicial Branch at 910-343-5365 (office), 910-530-2036 (cell), or [linda.e.bialaszewski@nccourts.org](mailto:linda.e.bialaszewski@nccourts.org) if you have any questions or would like additional information. [www.VolunteerforGAL.org](http://www.VolunteerforGAL.org)

## On the Calendar

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2/15/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
	11:30 AM	ROMEO Lunch (O)	Off Campus
	2:00 PM	Poetry Group (C1, Z2)	Classroom 1, Zoom 2
2/16/2024	1:00 PM	Mah Jongg (D)	Dobkin Hall
2/17/2024	3:00 PM	NYRDs Game Night (D & C3)	Dobkin Hall, Classroom 3

2/18/2024	9:15 AM	Quest (D)	Dobkin Hall
	10:00 AM	Directory Photoshoot (C2)	Classroom 2
	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship (S&Z)	Sanctuary & Zoom
	10:30 AM	Youth Religious Ed	Classrooms
	11:45 AM	LGBTQIA Committee (C1)	Classroom 1
	12:00 PM	Soup Sunday (D)	Dobkin Hall
2/19/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
	7:00 PM	UU Book Discussion Group (S)	Sanctuary
2/20/2024	5:00 PM	BOT Exec. Meeting (Z)	Zoom 1
2/21/2024	1:00 PM	UU New Chapters Book Club (D)	Dobkin Hall
	6:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)	Sanctuary
2/22/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall



**To get your event on the calendar,** send an email to [office@uucwnc.org](mailto: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](mailto:uudigest@uucwnc.org).  
(Submissions must be received by Wednesday at 5:00pm.)  
**For more information:** <https://www.uucwnc.org/newsletter-faq/>



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