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# ***WEEKLY DIGEST***

*February 22, 2024*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington

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## **In the Church**

- Sunday Service of Gratitude, February 25
- Quest, February 25
- Share The Plate, February 25
- JUULIETs, February 23
- UUCWNC Campus Closed, February 23
- WHEfrog's Irish Coffeehouse, March 17
- Not Getting Your Committee Emails?

## **Social Justice**

## **In the Community**

- Computer Literacy Class at Pine Valley Library

## **On the Calendar**



## **In the Church**

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### **Sunday Service of Gratitude, February 25**

Sunday's Service of Gratitude for Rev. Kathy will be February 25 at 10:30am. Service led by the Board of Trustees, with music by the UUCWNC Choir.

This will be a special service for Rev. Kathy, followed by a luncheon. As Rev. Kathy enters retirement and we enter a new stage in our congregation's life, let's come together to celebrate the milestone. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

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 25**

Quest is postponed for the Service of Gratitude and will return March 3.

### **Share The Plate, February 25**

Share the Plate this week goes to The Harrelson Center.

For many people in our area, living under the threat of financial and emotional crisis is an everyday reality. Where do you turn when your life has turned upside down?

Fortunately, you can turn to The Harrelson Center. Housed in a former jail, The Harrelson Center is the home to 22 nonprofit partners that provide centralized humanitarian services to the Wilmington community.

At the heart of the Harrelson Center is the Help Hub, a one-stop resource that exists to help folks in crisis avoid eviction, maintain utility connections, and afford vital medications. Because of its location, the Hub can also quickly connect people to one or more of the non-profits in the building. Access to healthy food, clothes, job

skills, emotional support are just a few of the resources available, at no cost. And, in addition to the convenience of all these agencies under one roof, the Harrelson Center provides the financial support and structures to help these agencies not just survive but thrive in this challenging economy. In place of competition between agencies, the Harrelson Center promotes an atmosphere of collaboration, mutual respect, and support. The essence of community.

All the non-profits share a commitment to provide needed services and resources to improve the lives of those in need, providing every individual with hope, dignity, and a sense of self-worth.

*As one staff member observed, "People can come here because it is not only in the heart of Wilmington but because it IS the heart of Wilmington."*

*As it's been said many times, this former jail "was once a place of incarceration. Now it's a place of transformation."*

Please join us as we support the transformative work of the Harrelson Center. For more information go to: <https://harrelsoncenter.org/>

*Thanks to your generosity, we recently donated \$778.87 to the NHC NAACP.*

## JUULIETs, February 23

WE'RE BACK AT LOVIE'S TOMORROW!

The JUULIETs (Just Unitarian Universalist Ladies Interested in Eating Together) will meet for lunch on Friday, February 23, 2024, at 1:00pm, at Lovey's Natural Foods and Cafe. 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. This is an LGBTQ safe space.

Lovey's is located at [1319 Military Cutoff Rd., Wilmington, NC 28405](#). The restaurant offers a variety of soups, hot foods made to order, and a well-stocked

salad bar. The ingredients of each offering are listed on a card which also says whether the dish contains meat, is gluten free, vegetarian and/or vegan. There's something for everyone!

Contact Stacy Kitt with any questions: call or text: (518) 495-7436.

## **UUCWNC Campus Closed, February 23**

The Settled Minister Search Committee is conducting a meeting February 23, 4-6pm, during which time the entire campus will be closed to others. Please respect their need for confidentiality.

## **WHEfrog's Irish Coffeehouse, March 17**

Our talented friend and UUCWNC member Warren Elliot passed away a few weeks ago. Those of us who loved this dear and talented soul for many years also appreciated his fondness of the Irish Coffee Houses he coordinated over the years, which ended around 2012 when Warren's hands couldn't play his beloved guitars as he once did.

We're honoring Warren's energy and musicianship, and love of St. Patrick's Day music making, with an Irish Coffee House in his memory on Sunday, March 17 from 6 to 8pm. We'll have a dozen or so music-makers on hand, along with a bit of poetry and a few stories about Warren to boot! Warren wasn't a Memorial Service kind of guy, so we're rejoicing in what he brought to our lives by sharing this night of Story and Song with everyone who wants to join us - and we \* certainly \* hope you'll join us! Come and enjoy the music and lift a Parting Glass to our dear friend.

Oh, and the title? WHEfrog was Warren's email handle, and we couldn't think of a better name for the evening!

Thanks,  
Joyce Elliot, Thea Hagepanos, and Jerry Winsett  
Honorary Celtic Coordinators

## Not Getting Your Committee Emails?

Some folks have lately noticed that they are not getting emails sent to their team or committee. If you are a member of the choir, the Board of Trustees, the Worship Committee, or any other group at UUCWNC, you are included in that group's email list. Please check your spam folder regularly to see if any of these have erroneously been identified as suspicious. Carefully inspect the sender's email address. All emails from this church end in @uucwnc.org. If you notice that your group's emails have landed there, be sure to mark it as safe so it can get to your inbox next time!

## 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>

LEARN MORE:

### **Parent Advocate Workshop**

**Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:00-8:30 pm – UUCWNC, Classroom #1**

Are you ready to make a difference in a child's life? The NHC NAACP Parents' Council is offering this workshop at our church! Learn about advocating with parents for their children who have learning and behavior challenges in the New Hanover Schools. Here's an opportunity to work in the schools and bring about positive change, one child at a time. If you are interested in the workshop and being part of the NHC NAACP's Advocacy Committee, please contact Peter Rawitsch at [rawitschp@mac.com](mailto:rawitschp@mac.com).

SPEAK UP:

### **Call to Action - Ask Your State Elected Officials to Sign-On to the Leandro Candidate Commitment Form**

UUCWNC is taking a bus of UUs and partners to the Leandro Plan Rally in Raleigh on Thursday, but if you can't go in person, you can still make a difference:

- 1. Call and/or Email Your State Representative and Senator** (Find their Contact Info here - <https://ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>)
- 2. Talking Points** (Feel free to use your own words, but urge them to sign the Leandro Candidate Commitment Form; link below):

"My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a person of faith and one of your constituents. Today, people across North Carolina have traveled to Raleigh for the State Supreme Court's oral arguments in the Leandro School Funding Case. Despite the landmark victory for public school funding in 2022, a change in the political make-up of the courts has prompted an unprecedented and unjust rehearing of the case. I join them in demanding that our children finally receive the sound, basic education promised to them in our state's constitution through full finding of the Leandro Plan. I am asking you as an elected official and candidate in the 2024 elections to sign on to Every Child NC's Candidate Commitment to Leandro. By signing you would be indicating that you are aware of the current failure to provide every child

in the state with access to a sound basic education, and pledge to vote to implement the spending and policy recommendations contained in the Leandro Action Plans that have been submitted to the Courts. You can review and sign the Leandro Candidate Commitment Form here: <https://everychildnc.org/candidate-commitment/>"

SHOW UP:

### **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 S. at [mjsheridan08@gmail.com](mailto:mjsheridan08@gmail.com).

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

#### **Friday, Feb. 23, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Join Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson and other NC UUs for week four of our Month of Education Advocacy. This week, we will do a deep dive into the catastrophic mismanagement that caused Durham Public School staff to be denied the compensation they were promised. This has led to ongoing days of protest and school closings. Join us for this important briefing from the Durham Association of Educators and Pastors for NC Children 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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### Computer Literacy Class at Pine Valley Library

Are you looking for help improving your technology skills? *Register for a drop-in tech help appointment at the Pine Valley Branch of the New Hanover County Public Library!* Upcoming dates are March 7, April 4, and May 2 beginning at 3:30pm.

Appointments are ideal for help with:

- Downloading eBooks & using library resources
- Learning the basics for laptops, tablets, and smartphones
- Setting up and using an email account
- Learning Word and other office products

If you have a personal laptop, smartphone, or tablet, please bring those with you! Register for an appointment time at <https://libcal.nhcgov.com/event/11676999>. Appointments are made in 40-minute increments. They will contact you via the email or phone number provided to confirm your appointment. **If registrations are full, please consider joining their waiting list or calling (910) 798-6331 and they will do their best to accommodate you.**

## On the Calendar

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2/21/2024	1:00 PM	UU New Chapters Book Club (Z)	Zoom
	5:45 PM	SJM rehearsal (D)	Dobkin Hall
	6:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)	Sanctuary
2/22/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
2/23/2024	1:00 PM	Mah Jongg (D)	Dobkin Hall
		Search Committee Meeting	
	4:00 PM	<b>(CAMPUS CLOSED)</b>	Whole Campus
2/24/2024	9:30 AM	GLT (C1)	Classroom 1



2/25/2024	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship (S&Z)	Sanctuary & Zoom
	10:30 AM	Youth Religious Ed	Classrooms
	12:00 PM	Luncheon for Rev. Kathy (D)	Dobkin Hall
2/26/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
2/27/2024	5:00 PM	BOT Meeting (C2, Z)	Zoom 1, Classroom 2
2/28/2024	6:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)	Sanctuary
2/29/2024	11:00 AM	Movement Class (D)	Dobkin Hall
	11:30 AM	ROMEO Lunch (O)	Off Campus
	7:00 PM	SJM Parent Advocate Workshop (C1)	Classroom 1



**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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