

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!

Summer 2017

Our **Summer** Sunday Schedule

Childcare **9:00 am - 11:00 am**
Worship and Church School **9:30 am**

Summer Sermons

— July Sermons —

What is Love?

Tabitha Asbury *July 2*
The “Golden rule” is in nearly all faiths’ cultures. “Treat others as you would like to be treated.” Many of our principles as Unitarian Universalists are based on this, and “loving your neighbor as yourself.” When love is spoken of it is not as an emotion, but as an action. Let us explore love as action together, as neighbors.

Life Is What Happens to Us While We Are Busy Making Other Plans

Lisa Nickerson *July 9*
Lisa will speak to embracing the twists and turns in life. She will share some personal reflections and discuss tips for building resiliency for the inevitable disappointments, trauma and stress. John Lennon music will accompany. Lisa will share stories/video of some of the kids and families she met at Kennedy Krieger to provide some gratitude perspective.

A Tale of Two Blankies

April Fritts *July 16*
Time with friends, cozy slippers, a rocking chair, a well-loved book—what brings you comfort? What about those times when you can't find comfort? How do you cope? Join us as we ponder the things we need in life to stay secure, even when the world around us is shaky.

Thoughts on the Afterlife

Steve Thompson *July 23*
Can the fundamentalist belief that a good God would send people to hell be right? My answer is “**Hell No!**” OK, then what does God do with evil people? I certainly do not claim to know for sure, but I have a possible, plausible explanation that I think you will find interesting. I will get you thinking with a lot of

questions, a bit of speculation, and some interesting possibilities about the question of hell, the afterlife, some characteristics of God and more.

Beautiful People

Glenn Rogers *July 30*
Our world needs “beautiful people” in so many ways right now. Not beauty in the common sense but deep and meaningful beauty that starts on the inside and shines so intensely it brightens the dark corners of the world around them. Some of these are clear and in the open and others are quiet and persistent but just as important as they work out of sight. Come explore the world of “beautiful people” that thrives all around us!

— August Sermons —

Sages in Service

J. Sue Henry and OWLS *August 6*
The Older Wiser Loving Souls Circle (O.W.L.S.) will share during this service the many qualities of persons in this later stage of life. This Circle which meets on a regular basis explores spiritual and personal growth from a place of a long life lived. Members will share their responses to the ten qualities of sages in service as developed by Sage-ing International. This will include our on-going debate of what does it mean to refer to ourselves as sage or conscious elder vs. senior citizen or some other less flattering terms. Join us as we share about this last part of our active spiritual journey, it may be helpful to you personally or in the interactions with the elders in your life.

Accidental Life Lessons: My Work in a “Primitive” Culture

René Varela *August 13*
Have you ever had preconceived notions completely obliterated? We all have had this experience to some degree. In my sermon, I'll take you on a journey with me to a place literally on the other side of the world, with people that couldn't have had a more different history. We'll hopefully explore together what I grew to realize as the common thread that binds together our universal human experience.

Finding Joy in Every Moment

Beth Wood-Roig

August 20

Why does it seem that so many people are unhappy these days? Oh, the lists we could each come up with are endless! The feelings of joy, happiness, and contentment seem so elusive in these negative political and socially divisive times. It is easy to imagine that feelings like joy are just not as available any more. Today we will explore ways to reframe our way of seeing things and discover deep joy within every moment. No magic tricks required. Just a willingness to shift perspective ever so slightly.

Soul Fuel

Marc Petrequin

August 27

All living beings must consume to survive, but how does one consume to truly feel alive? Food connects everything in our world, and our interaction with it affects every aspect of our lives, from our health to our environment to our spirituality. Join us today as we explore the philosophy of food and find the true recipes for happiness.

Rev. Carol's Corner

Making Friends With Change

SUMMER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

and with it 90 degree days and hot, humid nights. While it seems as if the weather changed suddenly, it didn't. I knew the heat was coming. I knew the sticky, thick air was on its way. But I was still surprised by the oven baked air and hot seats that greeted me when I slid into my car last week. The change in weather felt drastic and sudden—even though I knew it was June and the calendar had been telling me for weeks that Summer was on its way.

Sometimes, even if we know change is on the horizon, even if we have planned for it—change still surprises and scares us. Unfortunately, if we are scared of change, and see more problems than possibilities we might become rigid and stagnant. It can also make us want to hide or hibernate.

Neither of these is a good option. In fact, they are exactly what we should not do. Instead, if we can



embrace transformation, and see it as an opportunity (like the caterpillar who becomes a butterfly), we can move through periods of change—and come out the other side smarter and stronger. We can make **Change** our friend.

Things are changing here at UUFHC. You approved a new Board at the end of April, and a new minister will arrive in mid-August. The building and the organizational policies are being updated. The new air conditioning units are connected and functioning well, and the facility had a facelift when new siding was installed in May.

Change is happening for me too. After serving as your Interim Minister for almost a year, I preached my last sermon on June 18. I've accepted a settled ministry position at a thriving UU Fellowship in State College, PA. That means I'll be moving in late July, and will begin serving my new congregation in August. I'm also renovating my family home of over 30 years and preparing to put it on the market. And, I granted myself a wish—I bought a snazzy Mini Cooper (I'm thinking of naming her The Silver Bullet) Whew! That's a lot of changes.

In times of change, it is more important than ever to stay focused, resilient and compassionate. This community—the UUFHC family—is strong, centered and ready for the next phase of shared Ministry to unfold. I think that exciting and fulfilling days lie ahead for you.

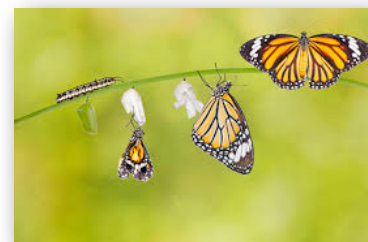
For many years I've carried the words below in my wallet. They seem like a fitting end to this, my last column.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

— Mark Twain

Love and Blessings.

- Rev. Carol



From Our President

Ah, summer—just the thought of it brings a warm smile to my face! I have always thought of summer as a time to rethink, refocus, rejuvenate and recharge myself, and thanks to our wonderful Building and Grounds Committee, we can now do all of that spiritual work in our very own air-conditioned sanctuary at UUFHC! We have had so many wonderful changes to our building this year, but I know in the dog days of summer, we will truly appreciate this latest addition!

As you take the time this summer to enjoy a slower pace, read a book, plan a trip, volunteer, garden, get crafty, start a new exercise program or just relax with your friends and family, start to plan how you can become an even more active member of UUFHC. We need you! There are many opportunities to serve on committees, plan social and fund raising events, support our members in time of need, sing in the choir, offer your garden or crafting talents, lead a class or be a behind the scenes worker.

We have many lay-led services coming up this summer that promise to inspire and help us all recharge. As we begin to plan for the new church year and minister joining us, I look forward to the opportunity to worship together and be motivated by the amazing talent among our members, friends and guests.

*- Diana Rudolph,
Board President*



Religious Education

Canaan's Lesson

Canaan was a two-year-old elephant who lived in Zimbabwe. His herd was led by his grandmother, Mama Ibbie, the matriarch of the family. Although he stayed closest to his mother, Kali, he also spent time with his three aunties, his cousins, and siblings.

It was the dry season in Zimbabwe. For the herd to find enough food and water, it would need to migrate to the Zambezi River, several hundred miles away. Just as they were about to begin their long journey, one of Canaan's aunties gave birth to a new calf. All the elephants trumpeted with joy. Canaan's mother and his other

aunties helped the calf stand. It took two hours for the newborn calf to be steady on her feet. After another hour, she could walk. That meant it was time for the herd to continue making its way to the river. The herd had to slow its pace so the little calf could keep up. They had to stop frequently so the calf could nurse and her mother could drink water more frequently. They were moving so slowly that Canaan became bored.

"Ugh. We're stopping again?" Canaan complained to his mother, Kali.

"It wasn't so long ago that we were stopping for you." Kali replied.

"This is taking forever. Why do we need to wait with them? You and I could get to the river much faster if we went on our own. Why don't we?" he asked.

Kali gently put her trunk over Canaan's back and said, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Canaan wrinkled his brow. "That doesn't make any sense!!"

"You'll see. It's time to move again. Hold my tail." And they were off.

Mama Ibbie led the way for the herd, like she always did. She was the oldest and the wisest. She knew the best places to find water and could find salt licks and leaves to eat even though the land was dry. It wasn't long before they stopped again, but Mama Ibbie quickly sensed danger. A pack of wild dogs was trying to snatch a calf for their lunch. Kali and the aunties stood in a protective circle with all the calves in the middle while Mama Ibbie charged the dogs. She trumpeted and her great feet shook the ground as she ran. After a few minutes, the dogs became frightened and ran away.

During the next stop, Mama Ibbie, Kali, and the aunties dug for water using their large toenails. The deeper they dug, the clearer the water became. The ground became quite muddy and when Canaan got stuck in the mud, his auntie pulled him out with her trunk.

At the next stop, Canaan's older cousin helped him take a dust bath.

Finally, they arrived at the Zambezi River. Canaan and the rest of the herd drank their fill and cooled their feet on its banks. Canaan's mom sprayed cool water over his back with her trunk. It felt great. "I think I understand now," said Canaan. "When we live in a herd, it can be

hard, because you have to do what's best for everyone—even the calves.”

“That’s true,” Kali agreed.

“But living in a herd also means you have lots of help.”

“Yes, Canaan.”

“And when everyone in the group uses their talents to help the group, the group gets stronger.”

“Yes, my love.”

“So even though our herd was slower, we became stronger because we all worked together. We made it to the Zambezi River safely because we stayed together.”

“You have learned a lot on this journey, Canaan,” said Kali.

End of Story

This summer in RE:

We will have classes for Pre K-5th Grade. We will either have a topic chosen by a volunteer, or a *Green Scene* class (our social justice project on recycling). Here’s what we have planned so far:

- July 2: 4th of July Lesson
- July 9: Yoga
- July 16: Green Scene, Session 3
- July 23:
- July 30:
- August 6: Fun Art Project
- August 13:
- August 20:
- August 27:

You’ll notice we have some open weeks. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me! dre@uufhc.net

6th-12th Grade students can either stay in the Sanctuary for the service or become a Junior Worship Associate. This would mean that they would work with the Worship Committee to help lead the service. This is an exciting opportunity to learn about how a service is coordinated! Students could also sign up to learn how to run the sound board. Please consider trying one of these things! UUFHC could use some volunteers and the students could use some volunteer hours! Contact dre@uufhc.net

Have a wonderful summer and I’ll see you around the RE Wing.



- Stephanie Kalka, DRE

Corner on Finance

It’s summertime, and the livin’ is easy, fish are jumpin’ and the cotton is high. Don’t you just love it? The livin’ will certainly be easy for us since we will all be cool this summer while at church! Two years ago the congregation voted to authorize the installation of air conditioning for the sanctuary. After much activity and effort, that action has come to fruition. Along with other capital improvements (new doors, siding & furnaces), the air conditioning is now a reality. This is due primarily to your healthy financial support and your approval of the capital improvement loan, which was arranged, processed and secured since that vote. We can now enjoy the future with a much-improved building. And, with your continued support, we hold the promise of secure growth in a new spiritual environment. The growth comes from our increasing membership numbers and the newness comes from Reverend Maria McCabe’s acceptance as our contract minister starting on August 15. It is an exciting time to be a member at UUFHC.

We move forward with the confidence offered to us through your election of a strong Board and backed by solid financial support of the membership. We stand in a good position, which will be shortly confirmed. It has been a while since our Fellowship has been independently evaluated through an audit. The new Board is addressing organizational issues that have arisen. One item is assessing our fiscal status. Traditionally, UUFHC has performed regular internal audits to get a gage on our financial standing. The Board will be discussing methods to secure a good evaluation. All seems good. Our asset to debt ratio is excellent, our cash flow is very good, and there are no indicators of significant change in the offing. Board discussions on ensuring assessment will take place this month.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer, engage with your family and friends, relish in your spiritual home, *spread your wings and take to the sky!*



- Rob Lieb, Treasurer

A Salute to Our Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to our two graduating seniors, **Taylor Gallihue** and **Colin Bourn**! We heard their personal credos at the *Coming Of Age* service in April, and now it's time to learn about their experiences in religious education at UUFHC (both have been in the program since their earliest years) and about their future plans.

Q: As of right now, what are your plans for the fall? How are you feeling about those plans?

Taylor: In August I move into my dorm room at University of Maryland, College Park and I could not be more excited! I am very much a people person and I am so looking forward to meeting more musical and social justice oriented people like myself. I can't wait to be so close to Washington, DC! I will be majoring in Biology and hopefully double majoring with Public Policy/Public Health (I can't double major until school actually begins).

Colin: This fall I'm going to be attending West Virginia University and will be studying civil and mining engineering. I'm also going to be part of the marching band and I plan on making it out to services at the UU church of Morgantown. I'm very excited to be moving out to Morgantown and living in a beautiful area and being close to nature, while also having a small city nearby. I'm also a bit nervous about living without my parents because they have done a lot for me the past 18 years. I'm also really going to miss the friends I made here in Bel Air. But the excitement definitely outweighs the nervousness.

Q: What is one of your favorite UUFHC memories?

Taylor: Just one? One of my favorites I can remember vividly is my fifth grade RE sleepover. The teepee, movies, tie-dye, and my amazing friends that I still have to this day—what's not to love?

Colin: Two memories that really stick out are the sleepover we had with YRUU when we painted one of the walls, and the youth con we hosted. But my favorite memory was definitely the COA trip to Boston. We learned so much and had a whole lot of fun along the way.

Q: What are some of the lessons you have learned as a part of UUFHC?

Taylor: I've learned the importance of being open-minded and accepting, as well as the ability to stand up for what I believe in, and the balance between the two. I've learned about music, spirituality, and how

to wrangle over fifteen kids in the nursery.

Colin: As a part of UUFHC I have learned a lot about myself. Through 12 years of RE I have developed my own set of beliefs that will help guide me on my journey through life. I also learned how helpful everyone here is. I've had people tutor me, mentor me, give me job opportunities, and offer tons of advice. UUFHC was also a huge help making my grandfather Ken's passing much easier. I'll always have a great community to back me up in UUFHC.

Q: What advice would you give the youth about to enter YRUU?

Taylor: Speak up! I promise no one will judge you for your opinions and the best way to have discussions and to learn is to actually discuss :)

Colin: High school is not an easy time. YRUU is a great opportunity to get closer with the people you go to church with and make good friends. Attend all the classes and sleepovers and events and fundraisers you can. YRUU is a good escape from the stressful life of high school so please take advantage of this opportunity.

Final Statement

Taylor: I love this congregation and RE program with all of my heart and I am 100% sure I would not be the person I am today if it was not for the people I've met here and the experiences I've had. Thank you to my parents for bringing me and to all of those who have helped me along the way. I will visit!

Colin: It's been a real pleasure getting to grow up around all of you ☺

Last Call For Culture Camp!

If you see this newsletter by June 30, you still have time to register your Kindergarten through 5th grade student for *Culture Camp*, which takes place July 24-28, 9:00 am through 12 noon.

Come learn about a different country every day! Kindergarten-5th Grade students will learn how children live in other countries: the games they play, the songs they sing, the food they eat, and the languages they speak. The fee for the week is \$75 for the first child and \$65 for each additional child. Contact Stephanie Kalka, dre@uufhc.net or call the office at (410) 734-7122.

Building and Grounds News

The **Big** news of the summer has to be the new furnace and air conditioning installed in the Sanctuary!

We hope you are all really “cool” with this development. The units were installed in the Children’s library. A wall with closet doors will be constructed to wall them off. For maximum efficiency, the thermostats should not be changed, and signs have been put up to that effect. There is a separate thermostat for the lobby. The blinds should be kept down to help keep the temperature low.

The siding project was completed in May—an excellent job was done by *Beilers Carpentry*. The beauty of the Fellowship has been enhanced and the insulation improved. Thanks again to the Beautification/Esthetics committee for their efforts on this project. Joy Mullen, Darlene Rothwell, Judi Walkley and Noreen Anderson have also worked on interior projects.

Then there is the sign. If you are looking for job security, may I suggest masonry. After many attempts, we may have a mason. His estimate will come in mid-June. He is about 6 weeks out on new jobs so we are hoping for good things.

We are continuing to work on the grounds. Carol Bindel has been doing an excellent job keeping our Zen Garden raked. Anyone who can weed or water should see Cindy.

Have a blessed summer!

- Cindy Veidt

The Search Continues

Our search team has received questions about where we go from here since we did not find a settled minister in our first attempt and we now have a contract minister coming in August. This article provides our immediate thoughts and will be followed by a meeting after service on July 30 to provide more detail and allow us to gather input to be sure we are shaping a path ahead that is consistent with the desires of the Congregation. We will also talk about all we have put in place to make search easier in the future and all we have learned in this fascinating odyssey!

With respect to continuation of search, six of our members (our seventh, Ed Roberts has moved to the Board) will continue searching in the next cycle that officially kicks off on December 1. During the summer

we will take a bit of a break and then pick up again this fall starting with a Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop for the Search Committee and church leaders followed by a service for the entire Congregation. The focus of the workshop is essentially on equal employment opportunity for ministers. More to come on that!

We have also learned a great deal about the cycle of search for settled ministers and the theory behind Interim and Contract Ministry. In fact, we have learned there are some differences between theory and practice. For example, some “Interim Ministers” are accredited, some are in training and some are simply between settled ministries. The one thing we have found to be unwavering is, Interim Ministers cannot be called to become Settled. The Board has chosen to hire a Contract Minister for our upcoming year and that happens to come with a bit more flexibility for the future, depending on the desires of the congregation and the minister.

I am sure this summary information raises many questions which we will be glad to address with the Board after service on July 30 so please mark your calendars!

*UUFHC Search Committee
April, Cindy, Darlene, Glenn, Marlene and Rene*

Chalice Lighters Update

Help Us Keep Chalice Lighters Strong – Did you know that the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Chalice Lighters program has awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants to more than 55 congregations in its 27 year history? (UUFHC received one of the first Chalice Lighters grants.)



Soon even more UU Congregations will be assisted to grow and thrive. Later this year, the JPD Chalice Lighters Program will be fully integrated into the Central East Region, serving even more congregations!

This spring, the Chalice Lighter program assisted two more congregations:

- The UU Church of Annapolis is hiring a Membership Coordinator to expand their membership.

- Bull Run UU Church, in Old Town Manassas, is making key repairs to its historic building, positioning the congregation for further growth.

Many UUFHC members are also Chalice Lighters. Please plan on joining us before the next church year. There are three calls each year for a minimum of \$20 per call. You can pay three times per year or send in a check for the entire year when you receive the first call. You will still get newsletters informing you of all the exciting projects. Contact Andrea Lerner at (484) 201-4384 or alerner@uua.org for information on how to join. All Chalice Lighter dollars go to support our congregations.



Breakthrough Congregations Returns and They are Looking for You!

Breakthrough Congregations returns with a focus that celebrates and shares innovative ways congregations are adapting to the challenges faced in an evolving religious landscape. We are looking for bold one-time initiatives as well as on-going sustainable efforts. This is not based on numerical growth or whole congregation health, though we will consider other benchmarks of health in your congregation.

Are you a congregation in the Central East Region doing adaptive, innovative ministry in a way that could be replicated elsewhere? Maybe you've found a new revenue stream, or have done something different in worship? Or maybe you have a ministry in your community that has become the hallmark of your congregation. Whatever it is, we want to hear about it!

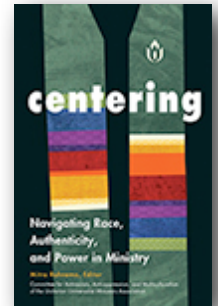
For more information and application materials, [go to the Breakthrough Congregations webpage](http://www.uua.org/growth/breakthrough) or [<http://www.uua.org/growth/breakthrough>]. Congregations and covenanting communities can apply and the application deadline is September 1.

From the Central East Region newsletter

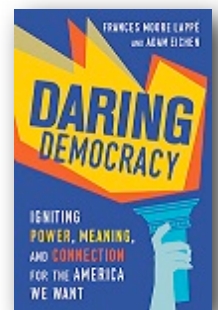
Summer Reading from the UUA Bookstore

This is a great time to settle back on your deck or porch with a book and do some summer reading. The UUA Bookstore, *inSpirit*, is the perfect place to browse. You can find books on social justice, spirituality, congregational issues, and even books for kids! This is a great time to get a head start on the 2017-2018 Common Read selections.

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry, Mitra Rahnema, editor, Skinner House Books. In October 2015 a group of distinguished UU religious professionals of color gathered together in Chicago. The goal was to reframe Unitarian Universalist anti-oppression work by putting the voices, experiences and learnings of people of color at the center of the conversation. This book captures the papers that were presented and the rich dialogue from the conference to share personal stories and address the challenges that religious leaders of color face in exercising power, agency, and authority in a culturally White denomination. This will be a 2017-2018 UUA Common Read.



Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want, by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen. With our democracy in crisis, many Americans are frightened and uncertain. The authors teamed up to tell the underreported story of a “movement of movements” arising to tackle the roots of the crisis. To save the democracy we thought we had, argue the authors, we must take our civic life to a place it’s never been. The arising democracy movement’s innovative and inspiring strategies are enabling millions of Americans to feel part of something big, historic, and positive. This is another 2017-2018 UUA Common Read.



Also check out the book, *You're in the Wrong Bathroom*, by Laura Erickson-Schroth and Laura Jacobs (for adults), and new books to help children learn about racial issues. Visit www.uuabookstore.org to start browsing.

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County
2515 Churchville Road
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Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Summer Sunday Services: **9:30 am**; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 20, 2017



Minister:	The Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel
Director of Religious Education:	Stephanie Kalka
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle): Tues, Wed & Thurs:	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
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Minister's Office Hours:	No summer hours
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Director of Religious Education Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs: Fri:	9:30 am to 12:00 pm Day Off
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Wayside Pulpit

To quote one of our clients, who broke down in tears upon his final release after a proven miscarriage of justice: "Not so much because I got out of prison, but because I was finally believed."

– *Knoops' Innocence Project, Netherlands*