

# The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



**Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!**

**Summer 2018**

## Our **Summer** Sunday Schedule

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

## Summer Sermons

— *July Sermons* —

### **How to Stay Woke About the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle**

*Tammy Gappen* *July 1*  
Many of us recycle, some of us hike in the woods, and others drive hybrid vehicles. It can be easy to think of these activities as optional. This message encourages us all to take a look at our place in the interconnected web of which we are a part.

### **I Lived!**

*Terri Bogle-Smith* *July 8*  
If today was your last day in this life, could you look back happy or would you see a long list of regrets? Today, let's talk about living each day to the fullest, taking chances, and being able to truly say: "I lived."

### **Overcoming Adversity**

*Hazel Hopkins* *July 15*  
We will hear from folks whose lives have encountered a series of misfortunes and yet through their own intestinal fortitude and with the assistance of non-profits in our area, they have been successful in plotting out a new life for themselves. You will be uplifted after hearing their stories.

### **Tao De Machine**

*Marc Petrequin* *July 22*  
What does it truly mean to be human, and what is our spiritual relationship with the machines we rely on to make life easier? How can we avoid becoming like machines and ensure that the positive aspects of humanity avoid obsolescence? Join us as we explore these questions and apply our Unitarian Universalist principles in this 'Tao De Machine.'

### **Taking the Ring to Mordor**

*Sandy Gibbons* *July 29*  
J.R.R. Tolkien's tale of an unassuming Every Hobbit's journey into the moral wilderness to destroy the Ring of Power offers powerful spiritual lessons in how we can treat each other, how we help those in need, and what we decide to do with the time that is given to us.

— *August Sermons* —

### **Fairy Tales Through A Mature Lens**

*D. J. Webster* *August 5*  
I've always had an affinity for folk tales and fairy tales, especially the ones I read as a child. But through a more mature lens, fairy tales, like all stories, allegorically bridge the gap between the truth of magic, wonder, and darkness, with something deeper. And that something is awakening to the possibility that the story we have been telling ourselves—and others—about our life might only be one version, one aspect of who we think we are. We all have a story and we are living a story together—let's explore this a bit further.

### **We are the Helpers!**

*René Varela* *August 12*  
Fred Rogers often told the story about when he was a boy and would see scary things on the news: "My mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world." In this service we will reflect on what it takes to have this mindset and recognize that we are a faith and community that is centered on this very conviction.

### **Fruits of the Spirit**

*Rev. María McCabe* *August 19*  
In the month of August, the ancient Celts celebrated the festival of *Lughnasad*, or first fruits of the harvest. As we prepare for summer's end, we will take time during this service to celebrate the many fruits of the spirit that sustain us throughout our lives.

## Blessing the World

Rev. María McCabe

August 26

Pierre Pradervand was a sociologist working in newly independent Algeria in the 1960's when he embarked on a lifelong practice of what he calls the 'gentle art of blessing.' In this service, we will reflect on the powerful spiritual discipline of giving blessing in the midst of our challenging daily lives.

## From Our Minister

*"If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."* - E. B. White



**LATE IN MY TERM** as chaplaincy intern at Albert Einstein Medical Center, a hospital that serves five of the most impoverished zip codes *in the world*, I learned an unexpectedly valuable lesson. We were sitting in our weekly classroom session and the head of the department, a seasoned Rabbi and extraordinary chaplain came to talk to us. "How do you celebrate your accomplishments?" she asked.

In a context where we daily faced deep human suffering, suffering that we hoped to improve, she was asking us to savor our successes. I had no answer to give her. No one ever taught me to celebrate my accomplishments. In fact, quite the contrary. I was taught *not* to celebrate such things, because it's wrong to brag or even appear to brag. And while I do agree that bragging is spiritually unattractive, the conversation we had that day taught me something new. Bragging and celebrating are two very different things.

We have much to celebrate, dear ones. I have found a lovely place to serve in ministry, a place where my gifts and my experience can be put to good use. And you have reconnected with your excitement for the future of your beloved Fellowship. We have much to look forward to. In the coming year, we will build together on the foundation we have begun to set. We will learn from our missteps and we will remember our successes. How wonderful it has been to open our doors wide to so many new members, and so many visiting clergy from other Unitarian Universalist congregations!

I have a vision of deepening our ties into our community in the coming year, continuing to encourage growth and continuing to learn how to extend the warmest welcome possible to this life-affirming and life-saving faith.

I see us visioning together for the future, honing our sense of congregational mission and connecting our programs and ministries to the mission. I see us creating a congregational covenant to guide us in the years ahead. We are a faith tradition of covenant, as you've heard me say more than once this year. It is our way of being with one another that connects us, rather than our religious creed.

But before moving full-steam ahead, it is time for your very grateful, but somewhat tired minister to take some time to rest and renew. The very wise and now retired minister, the Rev. Fred Muir refers to E. B. White's famous quote at the top of this column, when he advises his colleagues to find the time to practice good self-care. Our congregations, he says, expect us to model self-care and balance needs and demands with awareness. A self-sacrificing minister—or lay leader—is far more likely to experience burnout than someone who has learned the subtle art of practicing self-care.

As Unitarian Universalists, I think we are very prone to feeling torn between saving the world and savoring it. We can feel guilty for enjoying our lives while we know of so much suffering in the world. And don't get me started on the seemingly endless work of religious community. It can feel as though there are never enough hours, enough volunteers or even enough leadership to get everything done that we think needs to be done.

But it will. Never perfectly. Never exactly the way we thought it would get done. But it will. With renewed faith in our community, rested spirits and re-energized hearts we will return to the building of our Beloved Community.

- Warmly, Rev. María

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## From Our President

*"Summer, after all, is a time when wonderful things can happen to people. For those few months, you're not required to be who everyone thinks you are, and that cut-grass smell in the air and the chance to dive into the deep end of a pool give you courage you don't have the rest of the year. You can be grateful and easy, with no*

*eyes on you, and no past. Summer just opens the door and lets you out.” - Deb Caletti*

Yes, summer—a time to relax, enjoy nature, play like a child, read those books, take bike rides and walks, grill some great summer food, visit the beach, explore new places or just re-set your inner compass.

While it is important to take some time to relax and enjoy life at a slower pace, don't forget we have some great lay-led services during the summer. We have such talent among us and we even have air conditioning! Stop by this summer—help pull some weeds, catch up with friends, attend services and think about how you can support the work and activities at UUFHC when we all get back together at the end of the summer.

Mark you calendars for the annual picnic on September 9!

*- Diana Rudolph,  
Board President*



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## Religious Education

As I type, we are getting ready for my daughter's ballet recital. She has been working hard all year—especially the past few months when she realized she no longer wanted to dance. Unfortunately for her, we signed up for the recital and paid for her costumes last November. This is how it works if you're a large dance school and you need to have costumes ordered and dances blocked and a stage rented. Adults understand this but fickle children do not. Before I signed her up for the recital, I asked, "Are you sure? You'll need to stay in ballet the rest of the year. Are you sure you're sure?" many times. Each time, my daughter answered with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" A week after we signed her up, my daughter said she wanted to quit. This is not uncommon for this particular child. We refer to it as a case of "presto-change-o-mindo."

My husband and I went over and over the reasons she needed to stay in ballet: 1. We've already paid for classes and costumes. 2. You've already been blocked into the dances so your teacher and classmates are counting on you. 3. You have a talent for dance and you've made friends so you will have a good time once you get to class.

This has been the mantra spoken in response to the complaining during trips to class twice a week. Admit it, you're jealous. We felt bad for the kid, but not bad enough to let her break this commitment.

There were times she found her joy again in class and many times when she complained of the drudgery of barre work. I explained that her teacher coaxed them through the same routines so that they would develop the muscles needed for future skills, but I'm Mom so she probably just heard, "Blah, blah, blah, ballet requires strength, blah, blah."

Somehow, time passed and she got her costumes. She was eager to wear her tutu with her friends and practice their dances together. This past week, she's worn makeup and felt very important dancing on the stage under the lights. And tonight will be the performance, for which she's very excited.

We will all be relieved afterwards. No more classes. No more struggles—until we get the letter from the dance school stating her new class level which might just make her excited and interested all over again. Presto-change-o-mindo?

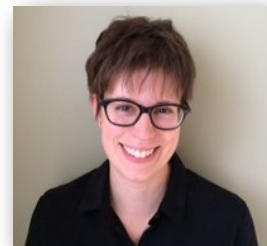
This summer in RE:

We will have classes for Pre K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade. We will either have a topic chosen by a volunteer, or a class about Gardening. We will spend a little time in the garden each week, so please dress appropriately!

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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. If they don't appeal, I could always use some help re-organizing supplies in the RE Wing! Contact [dre@uufhc.net](mailto:dre@uufhc.net).

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

*- Stephanie Kalka, DRE*



## Corner on Finance

Rumor has it that summer is coming soon. Hopefully by the time you read this the temperatures will have risen to normal and there will be swimming and outdoor activities where people wear loose and casual attire. There is a time for business and there is a time to relax. Generally at UUFHC too, summers are slower and more leisurely. I hope that you take advantage of the reduced activity to catch up on the things you want to do, and take the time get refreshed for the start of the church year in September.

Please remember to keep your pledges coming in as regularly as you can. With the reduced activity there sometimes also comes a reduction in donation flow. Currently we are in very good shape. There was strong financial support at the end of the last fiscal year, which was continued into the beginning of the new year. Newer members are keeping in stride with the long-time members and pacing their support so that the fiscal capability of the Fellowship is not in peril. Thank you all for that.

So relax, it's summertime and the livin' is easy. Rest your wings so that when the Fall arrives you can once again take to the sky.

- Rob Lieb, Treasurer



## A Salute to Our Graduating Senior

Congratulations to **Justin Karolyi**! He is graduating from the RE Program, which he began attending around age 8. He told DRE Stephanie Kalka about his future plans.



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

My plans are to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland to study Psychology. I feel comfortable with these plans and actually am pretty excited for the new experiences.

**Q: What is one of your favorite UUFHC memories?**

It's hard to pick just one favorite memory from all the years, but I think my classes and excursions with my YRUU class are the times I think back on the most. From something as big as the COA trip, to car washing at an Applebees, to just lighting the chalice before class—these memories would have to be my favorite.

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

There are countless lessons UUFHC has taught me. Some are to always keep an open mind to new experiences and people, to try and become educated about people and their culture and lives, and to help anyone I can when I can and even when I can't!

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

A piece of advice I would give anyone about to enter YRUU is to participate in every fundraiser, field trip, and event you can because, yes, they're important to the church and your curriculum, but they're the best ways to grow and bond with your classmates, and they just might become your best friends.

## Final Statement

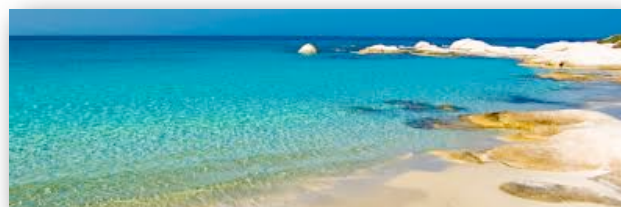
The RE program at UUFHC has taught me so much throughout the years, and I can't understate its value to who I've become as a person. It's contributed to the parts of myself I consider best, and shown me a community of accepting, welcoming people who generally want to teach you and just have you there. And don't forget to sometimes thank your teachers; after all they aren't getting paid to deal with us—they just volunteer to do it!

## Volunteer of the Month

Whether he is wearing an elf hat and waving at cars for the Holiday Bazaar, working in the yard, helping with the auction set-up and cleanup, making our Fellowship more beautiful, or just offering visitors and members a quiet, enthusiastic smile, **Pat McQuate** is a very valuable volunteer! He has a strong sense of responsibility and consistently tries to do everything that needs to be done—all with his good-natured personality. Thank you, Pat, for always going above and beyond to help make us the best that we can be—enjoy that well deserved parking spot!

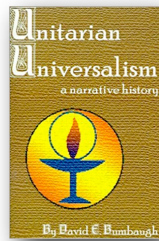


- Diana Rudolph



## Summer Reading in Unitarian Universalist History

“On July 15, 1838, Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered his ground-breaking **Divinity School Address.**” So begins an interesting story of the poet Emerson who spoke before congregations “as a minister of Second Church in Boston for three years, but had resigned, in part because of his discomfort with the rite of communion.” These quotes are from David E. Bumbaugh’s book *Unitarian Universalism a Narrative History*.



As Bumbaugh writes, Emerson was invited to speak at the Harvard Divinity School to address the graduating class. The popular speaker “took this occasion to voice his dissatisfaction with the ‘corpse cold Unitarianism’ of his day. Ministers of his day relied on the recorded experiences of men long dead, while ignoring their own first-hand experiences of life.” Emerson urged his listeners “to abandon the traditional focus on the testimony of the past as the source of religious truth, and focus instead upon their own lives, their own experiences of the sacred. He insisted that God not only spoke in the past but speaks today to those who open themselves to the meaning of their experience of the world.”

Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Bronson Alcott, and other Unitarians aligned themselves with this modern thinking about how God influences human beings. The term Transcendentalism refers to the new philosophy which arose from the Enlightenment era of the Old World—from John Locke, Emmanuel Kant and others—“that have direct access to truth, to a reality that transcends the testimony of the senses.”

New World English romantics like Coleridge, Carlyle, and Wordsworth influenced the educated classes in Massachusetts. By 1836, a group known as the Transcendental Club met regularly to discuss the new philosophy, formed by Emerson. Members included Fuller and Alcott.

Our minister, Rev. Maria McCabe, reminds us of the influence of the Transcendentalists in Unitarianism in her sharing of personal experiences in her sermons. As we know from our Judeo-Christian heritage, some religious denominations claim a personal experience with Jesus of Nazareth as one of the members of the Trinity of God. Some Unitarian Universalists value their experiences with the Sacred, the Divine, in other ways. Our pagan sisters and brothers honor our human

relationship with Nature and the Solstice on June 21. Could we be 21<sup>st</sup> century Transcendentalists?

I have Bumbaugh’s book if you would like to read it this summer.

- JoAnn Macdonald

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## The Stewardship Committee also does...

The Stewardship Committee is looking for your input and help! Stewardship is far more than working to ensure we have the money to fulfill our annual budget. It is one way for the congregation to fulfill its ministry, as part of a larger whole. Tanya and Emily want to ensure that the Stewardship Committee includes a diverse group of congregants to help grow, nurture, promote, and build our gifts. Please contact Tanya Tag ([tltag@yahoo.com](mailto:tltag@yahoo.com)) or Emily Whaley ([mtuemily@gmail.com](mailto:mtuemily@gmail.com)) to join us as we work to inspire our faith community to contribute their gifts towards the fulfillment of our ministries and dreams for the future.

- Emily Whaley

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## Summer Birthdays

Cara Liggett	July 1
Paul North	July 1
Jean McKendry	July 7
René Varela	July 7
Diana Rudolph	July 11
Georgia (Gigi) Simpson	July 11
Melvia (Mel) Hagan	July 14
Glenn Brown	July 16
Karen Pearsall	July 16
Sara Brinkerhoff	July 19
Valerie Green	July 19
Karin Johnsgard	July 19
Ami Silberman	July 19
Joy Mullen	July 20
Mark Gallihue	July 23
Shawna Brinkerhoff	July 26
Erica Fineman-Bertoli	July 26
Rob Lieb	July 30
Sara Morton	August 8
Suzanne Gallihue	August 11
Sheryl Gallagher	August 15
Marge Calvert	August 17
Natalie Gallagher	August 18
Terry Kalka	August 24
Glenn Rogers	August 30

## Church Safety Fire Drill a Success

The congregational fire drill held during our worship service on May 27 was very successful and highly effective. This drill was the first of a series of emergency procedures initiated by the Church Safety Committee. Each of the congregational drills will be preceded by Tabletop Exercises, where a large committee representing each component of our congregation, respond to a specific emergency scenario, in an effort to walk through each element before the congregation goes through the drill. We held the fire drill Tabletop session reviewing the May 27 drill on March 29, and this involved 16 members of the congregation.

The fire alarm was activated at the conclusion of the service. Children and teachers from the Religious Education wing were the first to exit the building. Congregants quickly followed from the front and back exits and proceeded to the assembly location on the Montessori playground. Members of the Safety Committee helped to usher individuals and made sure that everyone was out of the building. Board members and other congregants assisted individuals with mobility challenges. After a delay in shutting off the alarm everyone was given the positive sign to re-enter the building.

Lessons learned from the exercise include: Informing all Safety Committee members how to shut off and reset the fire alarm; providing extra keys for the system; providing a closer gathering spot for individuals with mobility challenges; utilizing all members of the Safety Committee during an emergency—not just those on duty; ensuring that individual room doors are closed, not locked, when exiting; and initiating an accountability system to ensure that everyone gathers at the designated location.

Many members of the congregation expressed appreciation for having emergency drill procedures in place. These emergency drills provide an opportunity for commendation and areas for improvement. We want to share these opportunities with you. Everyone from the Church Safety Committee and Administrative Board would like to thank all congregants for their participation, support and rapid response to these emergency procedures.

*- C. Nelson Fritts, Jr.,  
Church Safety Committee Chair*



## Ramadan Dinner at the Masjid Al Falaah

On Saturday night, June 2, I attended the Ramadan Dinner at the Masjid Al Falaah at the Harford County Education Society in Abingdon. The event was hosted by Dr. Rehan Khan, who had sent an open invitation to numerous congregations in Harford County, including the Jewish temple in Havre de Grace. I was pleased to see two other UUFHC members, Hazel & Larry Hopkins, in attendance as well. Having never attended any such event before, I'm pleased to say any potential expectations I would have had were exceeded.

The event started at 8:00 pm with a meet and greet session between guests and members. After appetizers of dates, chickpeas, and samosas at sundown, we were ushered into the main building for the traditional prayer service to break the daily fast, which had started each day of Ramadan at sunrise. Following prayer service, the caterers served an elaborate spread of traditional Islamic food, including jasmine rice, naan, stewed goat, roasted eggplant, and kheer (rice pudding), all of which united the elated spirits of both guests and members.

Following dinner Dr. Khan invited all the men attending back into the temple for a question & answer session preceding the final evening prayers, which would continue until midnight. Much of the discussion explored how members and guests can help promote tolerance and understanding of Islam in America in spite of the growing fearful rhetoric permeating our culture. I believe an effective way would be to have more of our members, especially those in the Religious Education program, reach out and engage with the Masjid Al Falaah at future events, like charity fundraisers, and share their experiences in the community. More information can be found at <http://www.masjidalfalaah.com/>

*- Marc Petrequin*

## It Takes A Village to Grow Our Faith

It's time to join the Chalice Lighters so you'll be ready to answer the first call this fall. What are the Chalice Lighters? Members of our Congregation can join for as little as \$20 per call, three times per year. Just choose the amount that feels comfortable for you. These funds join others collected throughout the Central East Region to provide grants to help Congregations improve and grow. UUFHC has been the recipient of many Chalice Lighter grants over the years, and in fact we received the first Chalice Lighter grant back in 1988 which enabled us to call Rev. Alice Blair Wesley. Here are the most

recent recipients of Chalice Lighter Grants along with the purpose. Can this spur ideas from our leadership for future applications?

The **UU Church of Hamburg, NY** used the grant to construct a new wheel chair ramp and indoor lift to increase the church's accessibility—creating a welcoming, full service congregation for all, not just the able-bodied.

The **Unitarian Society of Germantown** in Philadelphia, established in 1865, will install an elevator, making all three floors accessible to Members and visitors with disabilities. The Congregation considers this a moral and legal imperative.

The **SouthWest UU Church in North Royalton, Ohio** sits at the highest point in town and is topped with a landmark steeple. Their Chalice Lighter grant allowed the Congregation to renovate its worn steeple for safety and preservation.

A new Chalice Lighter grant will enable the **Unitarian Church of Harrisburg**, Pennsylvania to expand outreach through its Chalice Center by renovating its downtown Market Street campus, and serving the surrounding multicultural, low income neighborhood by allowing collaborative space for local groups.

If you have questions, contact Andrea Lerner at (302) 778-4564 or [chalicelighters@cerguua.org](mailto:chalicelighters@cerguua.org). To enroll, contact Cristina Sanchis at [csanchis@uua.org](mailto:csanchis@uua.org). You can go green by requesting to receive the call letters by email. You can also pay securely via internet. There is an option to pay for all three Chalice Lighter calls at once. You will still continue to receive the letters announcing the grant winners.

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## Paula Cole Jones to Serve as Interim Field Representative

The Central East Region is delighted to announce that Paula Cole Jones will be joining the CER staff for one year as field staff, to fill in for Rev. David Pyle as he deploys to the Middle East. Paula is a lifelong UU who has been serving our faith for decades, and we're looking forward to having this year of partnership with her. She will begin work with us on August 13 and will be with us until August 2019.

Paula Cole Jones is a management consultant and group facilitator and has worked in non-profit organizations

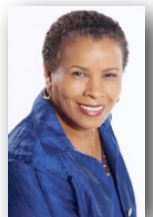
and for both the federal and local government. She began her career in natural resources and soon found that her passion lay in inspiring people to work for change. She believes that we can do most of what we, as a group, agree upon. Give her a group of people, and she will give you a result.

Paula is a lifelong member of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC. Her professional work within the Unitarian Universalist community spans 20 years. She has had a wide range of opportunities at the district, regional and national levels of the UUA. Many of you may know her for her work in racial and social justice. It is rare to get hands-on experience working with so many different parts of an organization. These experiences contribute to her institutional knowledge and have provided her a deep and wide reserve from which to draw.

She served six years with the Joseph Priestley District and now returns as a staff member of the Central East Region. She looks forward to working more closely with ministers, lay leaders and congregations for the coming year, and renewing old connections and forming new ones.

In serving UU congregations, she is committed to preserving the health, diverse membership, culture, progressive values, justice ministries and community relations of the church for generations to come. Paula served on the board of the UUA's Skinner House Books and her writing has appeared in several publications. She co-authored the 8th Principle for Unitarian Universalists.

She is a former competitive martial artist and a certified research scuba diver. Paula likes good music, travel, movies and flowers.



*- from the Central East Region newsletter  
([www.uua.org/central-east](http://www.uua.org/central-east))*

[Ed. Note: Some of you may remember when Paula Cole Jones gave a sermon at UUFHC in May 2016.]



The Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Harford County  
2515 Churchville Road  
Churchville, MD 21028

Building Liberal Religious Community  
*Please Join Us!*

Sunday Services: 9:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at [www.uufhc.net](http://www.uufhc.net)



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 12, 2018



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
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

Minister's Office Hours: TBA  
Mon: Weekly Sabbath Time  
Tues & Wed: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Thurs: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Fri: Writing & Research Day

Director of Religious Education Office Hours:  
Mon: Day Off  
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 pm to 2:00 pm  
Fri: Day Off

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Website:	<a href="http://www.uufhc.net">www.uufhc.net</a>

## Wayside Pulpit

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

– Frederick Douglass