

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!

June 2023

Our Sunday Schedule
Worship at 10:30 am
is now in-person and virtual via Zoom

June Sermons

The Ministry of Mental Health

Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

June 4

In this first worship service produced by the UU Mental Health Speaker's Bureau, Rev. Meyers will talk about her book *HELD*, which tells a lot of stories from her ministry focused on mental health issues—both how-to stories and how-not-to stories. She gives guidance for congregants in the pews who want to help make a difference. It has a built-in study guide. She hopes that the book will be used by many congregations to make the denomination a friendlier place for people with mental health problems and their families.

Delightful Dedication: A Coming of Age Service

Jenn Blosser

June 11

Join us as we listen to our Coming of Age youth share their personal insights about and understanding of our liberal faith tradition. We will celebrate the blessings which come from the commitments of our young people to their individual beliefs and revel in the ways their enthusiasm uplifts our collective faith.

Please stay after the service to join a picnic to honor our youth and the dedicated mentors who shared so much of their time to make this program happen.

A Road Well Traveled

Rev. Maria McCabe

June 18

Join us for a celebration of this vibrant and caring congregation and all those who make it special. We will honor this time of transition and excitement for the future, as we say goodbye to our minister.

*A special potluck celebration to honor
Rev. Maria McCabe's ministry follows the service.*

This I Believe

Hazel Hopkins, leader

June 25

Come hear what some of our members will be sharing in the essays they've written on the topic "This I Believe." A radio program which was hosted by Edward R. Murrow in the 50s featured well known individuals reading their essays about a strong belief they held. It was revived on NPR in 2005 and on June 25 will be revived once again!

From Our Minister



As the time comes to say goodbye to one another, I've been reflecting on our time together and enjoying conversations with many of you. There is much to celebrate and much to be grateful for. And, as much as I would like to say that everything is done (and done perfectly of course) that is not the case. We dream big dreams in our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and those dreams sustain us in the ongoing journey of making Beloved Community. And we make big progress along the way. The UUFHC community not only survived the pandemic, it is thriving. New and old connections continue to deepen. Most importantly, you are looking to the future with hope and energy.

I love seeing that energy! You deserve to feel good about the future. *Good* candidates stepped forward to apply to do ministry with you. You have many qualities to offer a new minister, not the least of which is a sense of momentum. Together we have worked to strengthen your foundation and prepare to help shape the future of Unitarian Universalism. What we say each week during the offertory each week is true. There has never been a greater need for progressive, loving religious community.

I believe in you. I always have and always will.

For the times when I have disappointed you and failed to live up to my promises to you, I ask your understanding and forgiveness.

For the times when you feel you have disappointed me or failed to live up to your promises to me, I freely offer my understanding and forgiveness. I feel nothing but gratitude for our time together.

For the times when you feel I have kept my promises to you in an especially good way, I ask you to celebrate with me. I accept your gratitude and say “it was my pleasure.”

For the times when you feel you have kept your promises to me in an especially good way, I am grateful and would like to say “thank you.”

As we say goodbye, may we let go of whatever remains undone, and may we cherish the joys and learnings we have shared.

I release you from your promises to me as you release me from my promises to you.

Go forward in peace, truth and love.

- Warmly, Rev. María

(With gratitude to the Rev. Tess Baumberger for her wise words of ministerial farewell.)

From Our President

It’s the beginning of a new calendar year for our Fellowship, and it feels like the air is full of possibilities. I’m excited to welcome our new Board members including Dan Feldman, Martina Kuzenski, Kim Roberts, and Marc Petrequin. Over the summer we will be working on formalizing our goals for the coming year. A few of the things top of mind for me are to complete our contract minister search, adopt a Safe Congregation Policy, start building a Strategic Plan for UUFHC, and form and empower a Right Relations team to help bring our covenant to life. I’m sure we will have a robust discussion as a Board and align on a set of priorities. As soon as we have done that, I’ll be eager to share them with the congregation. I would like to acknowledge the effort that Kathleen Mader is taking to begin the process of empowering a Right Relations team. If you are interested in learning more or potentially taking some of the training UUFHC has to offer, I’d recommend reaching out to Kathleen for more information.

As I mentioned, completing our contract minister search will be among our top priorities. I am truly grateful for Kim Roberts stepping up to lead our search committee. While it’s typical to have a search committee of three or four members, we have 11 interested UUFHC members that have been active in supporting the search process. I’m very confident with their combined wisdom will guide us to a successful outcome. There are two search windows, one to be completed by mid-May and the second search window that will happen in June. The Board and search team are committed to sharing information as soon as we have a confirmed match. Prior to then, UUA recommends not sharing candidate details out of respect for the privacy of ministers in search.

It will be a bittersweet time to say goodbye to Rev Maria at the end of June, but I know she is leaving us in a good place. I look forward to advancing the work on the covenant and feel that this will be one of Rev Maria’s enduring legacies and a tremendous gift to our congregation. While change is difficult, I will enjoy celebrating her accomplishments as she prepares to transition to her next opportunity.

One of the responsibilities of our Board is to make sure all our key committee roles are filled. There are several opportunities for members to participate and engage in an area that is of interest to them. I’m very interested in holding a volunteer day early in this new fiscal year, where the committees can discuss roles and openings available. It’s a great opportunity for new members to engage with our community, and for existing members to stretch some new muscles. This past year we regularly had our committee leaders attend some of our Board meetings, so the Board understands their challenges, priorities, and support needed. We will continue that this year, and I’m really looking forward to the progress we will make and making sure our committees are supported.

With all these emerging initiatives and changes underway or in process, it’s not hard to imagine that the air seems ripe with possibilities! As always, I appreciate your feedback for me after the service or at any time on my email at president@uufhc.net.

Yours in service,
- Mark Davis



Corner On Finance

“I’ll Be Back!” No it is not Sylvester Stallone but Dick. I am helping Shawna out for the newsletter this month. Per below you can see that we had net income of \$112,771 which is mainly due to the \$100,000 gift (additional income) that we received. We applied this to the mortgage and at the end of March we only owe \$9,047 to Harford Bank.

Please see our simplified financial statements for the eleven months ending March 31, 2023. For the detail of the statements, you really need to refer to our Profit & Loss & Balance Sheet on the website. I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have on any issues related to our financial situation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shawna at treasurer@uufhc.net or me at (410) 688-0891 only for this month. Shawna will be doing the newsletter from now on.

Profit & Loss Statement Year to Date Mar. 31, 2023		
Description	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
INCOME	\$373,020	\$239,616
EXPENSES	<u>\$260,249</u>	<u>\$259,817</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$112,771	\$(20,201)

Cash Flow Statement Year to Date Mar. 31, 2023		
Beginning Balance May 1, 2022	\$194,496	
Net Cash Flow Activities	<u>\$3,009</u>	
Ending Balance Jan. 31, 2023	\$197,505	

The above statements show that for the 11 months ending 3/31/23 we made a profit of **\$112,771** and our cash was increased by **\$3,009**.

To see our detailed financial statements (Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet) on our website, www.uufhc.net, click on the Members tab on the top right. You can get the password by sending a request to office@uufhc.net or webmaster@uufhc.net. I am trying to let you know exactly where we stand financially on a monthly basis. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@uufhc.net.

BStrong
BSafe



- Dick Calvert
Past Treasurer

Volunteer of the Month

As we finish the main church year, we look back at all the wonderful services, Faith Formation and Adult Education offerings we experienced during the year. We especially want to honor our OWLS leader, **J. Sue Henry** who has not only led an in-person group for adults 55 and older, but also a group that meets over Zoom. Many members have joined the group and learned what it means to be an “Older, Wiser, Loving Soul.”



J. Sue is also a worship associate, and we often see her on Sundays supporting the minister or speaker during the service. Thank you so much, J. Sue for your service to our Fellowship.

Minister Search Update

A little over three weeks ago, a committee of volunteers began the search to find a new interim/contract minister. Because the tenure of interim ministry is brief, the work of the interim period specialized, the number of trained interim ministers small, and the search deadlines often extremely short, per UUA guidelines, the ultimate hiring decision is a Board responsibility based on recommendations from a search team with minimal congregational input. UUA recommends small search teams of three to five.

Many congregations entrust their Board, the elected representatives of the congregation, with the entire process.

At UUFHC we want as much congregational input as possible, and so we are fortunate to have in hand the results of our recent Stewardship small group meetings to guide the search team. Our search team is representative and diverse, consisting of all volunteers totaling 11 Fellowship members, three of whom are on the current Board.

“Called” long-term ministry is a different process, requiring the vote of the entire congregation. The process leading up to the vote takes place over a period of as much as a year (usually during the second year of an interim period). It includes a full congregational survey and workshops.

Your search team has interviewed and evaluated three well-qualified candidates with various backgrounds and strengths. With Board approval, we hope to have an announcement for you very soon! Due to privacy concerns

for the *candidates*, their names and ministerial records are not disclosed to the congregation.

The search team includes Kimberly Roberts, Mark Davis, Beth Wood-Roig, Mary Slade, Leigh Faunce, Barbara Bowman, Sue Knause, Paul Seadler, Erin Gallagher, Trisha Tatam-McQuate and Cindy Veidt.

- Kim Roberts

June 18 is a Special Day!

It's Rev. María McCabe's last day with the congregation. She will deliver her final sermon to us as called minister. After the service, we will have a special potluck celebration of her time together with us. The potluck will have a Puerto Rican theme, so start planning on what you might bring to the Farewell party. Rev. María knows there is a party and hopes to bring her family.

Although Rev. María is our minister until June 30, she will be attending GA at the end of June, and so won't be with us that last Sunday. So make plans to attend on June 18 to wish Rev. María a fond farewell and thanks for her guidance these past six years.

Kudos to Pam Lottero-Perdue

Our own member Pam is highlighted in the [Towson University Magazine; TU, Spring 2023](#). Pam is a physics, astronomy, and geosciences professor and director of the Integrated STEM Instructional Leadership (PreK-6) Post Baccalaureate Certificate program.

According to the TU magazine, "Pam thinks of her classes as stories, with topical threads linking course content and her students' backgrounds." The article highlights Pam's goals for future teachers at TU. Her picture is full-page, and was taken when she and her students toured the Conowingo Dam "to see how the dam's technology is connected to ideas about engineering that are part of the next generation science standards [that] public school teachers must adhere to in the classroom."

From a personal point of view, I am very proud to know Pam, and wish that I had had her as my teacher at TU back in the day. Thank you, Pam, for being an inspiration to many future teachers and this former science teacher.

- submitted by JoAnn Macdonald

Happy June, Everyone!

One of my favorite Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals is *Carousel*. And one of the really popular songs from that musical is "June is Bustin' Out All Over!" Raise your hand if you know this song, too! Pretty soon June *will* be bustin' out all over. Yes! We at UUFHC have many wonderful things planned for June. Please see the weekly nUUsbytes, and this Newsletter for the high-lights.

From our UU history, what should we know about June events? Have you heard of Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen, and an English Unitarian? Well, in the book about Priestley's arrival from England to the United States, J. D. Bowers wrote that "the English Unitarian influence and presence in America grew; all that was missing was the presence of a permanent leader around whom the movement could coalesce. That leader soon appeared when Joseph Priestley arrived in the United States aboard the *Samson*, which dropped anchor in New York harbor on June 4, 1794. He cleared customs the following day in the company of his family and a small group of English companions." Priestley's biography is a fascinating one to me because he was a Unitarian minister *and* a scientist. The Joseph Priestley Home and Laboratory is located in Northumberland, Pennsylvania. It's worth the short trip north—about two hours.

Another bit of our history comes from David E. Bum-baugh, in his book *Unitarian Universalism, a narrative history*. Universalists, as you know, believe that everyone will be 'saved,' that is, humans do not need a savior to get to God after we die. It's that simple. He informs that Universalists have no established or unified European history as do the Unitarians. In another account, in the uudb.org, a minister from England, John Murray, who was very disappointed with his life there, left for the colonies in 1770, and was shipwrecked off the coast of New Jersey. By destiny or divine intervention, Murray arrived to a welcoming group who had been praying for guidance in their spiritual lives. Please see Murray's biography written by Peter Hughes.

The month of June also celebrates Father's Day. As we remember our fathers in many ways, may we greet our members who are fathers as well. Please tell them, "Thank you very much for being a significant part of our UUFHC!"

As I said, "June is bustin' out all over!"

- JoAnn Macdonald

Chalice Lighter Corner



We all know about our latest \$20,000 grant from Chalice Lighters to update our technology so we can stream our services for those who cannot attend in person, and to develop a UUFHC phone app. Lately, the Central East Region (CER) has awarded grant funds to congregations for different technology and building improvement projects. These grants are supported by members like you! Members from all over the multi-state region become Chalice Lighters and send in small contributions, \$20 or more three times a year. Enough money is raised to support grants for one, two, maybe even three congregations!

How else do Chalice Lighter grants support our congregations? UUFHC reflects the history of the Chalice Lighter program. The former Joseph Priestley District began the Chalice Lighter grants in the late 1980s, and was the first of the UUA districts to initiate the program. Other districts soon followed.

UUFHC received the first Chalice Lighter Grant, which helped us bring our first called minister, the Rev. Alice Blair Wesley, to UUFHC in 1988. During Rev. Wesley's tenure, we started plans to move from our Bel Air Lee Way location to our present location on Route 22. A Building Committee started the planning, and we received a Chalice Lighter grant along with a low-interest UUA loan to build our present facility.

In the late 1990s, it was evident that we needed to support a Director of Religious Education for more than the 10 hours a week pay I received, since many students were enrolled in the program. A Chalice Lighter Grant helped to support a half-time DRE.

Another grant supported an initiative to study ways to attract new members. Besides running ads in the Aegis, we tried other outreach efforts, including our presence at fairs and events county-wide. The Membership and Social Justice committees have continued the effort to make our presence known ever since.

Rick and I have been members of Chalice Lighters since 1988. We get the Newsletter, *The Spark* which tells us how our money is helping other congregations. It is exciting for us to read about grants to new start-up congregations. Many of these new congregations quickly became large, vibrant congregations thanks to Chalice Lighters.

It's easy to become a member. Your small donation three times a year can go a long way. Visit [Chalice Lighter](#) to learn more and sign up. There are options to pay all three

calls at once or receive the call and newsletter either through email or snail mail. You will receive the three newsletters per year letting you know who is benefitting from your donation.

- Kay Saucier

June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all our Members with June birthdays. It's a great time to celebrate late spring/early summer birthdays, perhaps outdoors? We wish fun and sun for all our June honorees.



Laurie Feldman	June 1
Laura Hofherr	June 11
Marlene Lieb	June 11
David Rudolph	June 12
Brenna Kupferman	June 17
Dee Ann Whitehead	June 22
J. Sue Henry	June 25
Cathy McSherry	June 26
Sara Stees	June 27
Laura Bianco-Pruett	June 30

Central East Region Summer Institute July 9 through 15

CERSI, the Central East Region's Summer institute and UUMAC, (the UU Mid-Atlantic Community) combine this year for a joint camp at PennWest University in California, PA July 9 through 15. Everyone is welcome to come together for a week of community, fun, learning and sharing.

Adult theme speaker CB Beal (they/them/theirs), is a storyteller, educator, and speaker who is known for humor, insight, and ability to use their own foibles and unfortunate life experiments as a cautionary tale, and to hold space where people can be braver and safer. The theme is *The Call is Coming from Inside the House: Preemptive Radical Inclusion and Practices for Witness, Self Examination and Change.*

Youth have their own speaker and program, and children have daily RE programming each morning. Drop-in programming, including games and art for all ages, is offered in the afternoon. Evenings are filled with community fun time, such as a talent show and games.

Registration is now open, but closes June 20. The Scholarship deadline is May 31. Learn more at the [CERSI website](#).

. . . Or Consider SUUSI July 16-22 at Western Carolina University

Another alternative if you want to attend a UU camp/conference in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina is SUUSI, the Southeast Region's camp and conference center. You'll enjoy nature trips, music, workshops, age-group programs as well as community adventures. Rob and Marlene Lieb have attended SUUSI for many years. The theme for SUUSI 2023 is "Turn Our World Around."

Visit www.SUUSI.org to take a look at the catalogue of opportunities. Registration information is also available.

Last Call for GA June 21 through 25, online access available

Rev. María and two delegates from UUFHC will be attending GA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but there is still the opportunity to take part in General Assembly online. You will have access to almost everything, including worship services each day, theme speakers, the Ware lecture on Saturday night, and workshops. You may also be able to see the General Session, where the business of the UUA is conducted, and the Presidential Candidates Forum.

You can participate from the comfort of your own home. Although being physically present is a great way to feel part of the larger Unitarian Universalist community, online participation is almost as exciting. To find out more visit [General Assembly](#). A link to Registration is in the left hand column. The online registration fee is \$300.

UUSC Addresses Climate Challenges

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) works with partners worldwide to study and advocate for those affected by climate change. One area is the Isle de Jean Charles in southern Louisiana, home to the Jean Charles Choctaw Nation. Once a land of 22,000 acres, it was considered "inland." Today, climate change has di-

minished the land to a mere 320 acres. Louisiana's Grand Bayou Village has seen drastic change due to levee construction, oil extraction, and rising sea level. This has caused the land to sink and become a saltwater marsh.

Residents have been forced to raise their houses on stilts and to find new ways to replace income from damaged fishing habitats. UUSC is working with partner Lowlander Center to bring greater attention to the problems and to work toward solutions.

UUSC is also active in the Pacific Islands. Seed grants to UUSC's partner, Climate Tok, are already making a difference. In the Fiji islands of Narikoso and Kadavu, families have begun phased relocation due to tidal water regularly flooding homes. But moving to higher elevations is making travel difficult for elders, children, and people with disabilities. The grants are being used to create footpaths and install solar lighting. Climate Tok has assisted other villages in Fiji destroyed by cyclones, resulting in a loss of electricity. Grants helped them deliver solar lights to allow residents to prepare meals after dark and enable children to study in the evening. They also provided solar packs so that people in these villages could charge mobile phones.

Climate change is only one of the many areas that keep UUSC busy. Another partner in Mexico, Casa Tochán provides services and support for people in migration who have been victims of crime and human rights violation. Casa Tochán assists people obtaining asylum in Mexico after traveling from Central America.

UUSC is in the midst of their 2023 Annual Fund campaign. To find out more about UUSC, visit www.uusc.org. Read about their many important social justice programs. The "donate" button is in the upper right corner.

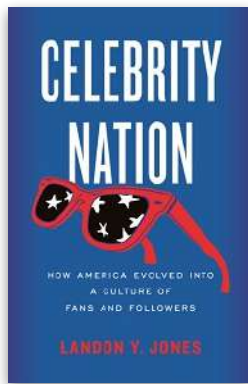
Hot of the Press *Celebrity Nation* by Landon Y. Jones Beacon Press \$25.95

Summer is fast approaching and we are looking for something lighter, perfect for beach reading. Is anything like that available from *inSpirit*, *UU Book and Gift Shop*? I recommend *Celebrity Nation*, by Landon Y. Jones, published by Beacon Press in May.

This book tells us how and why fame no longer stems only from heroic achievement but from the number of

“likes” and shares—and what this change means for American culture. Landon Jones spent decades in celebrity land and emerged, like Alice, blinking in the sunlight. He draws on his experience as the former managing editor of *People* magazine. He knew many celebrities personally, from Malcolm X to Princess Diana, and compares them to today’s influencers, including Miquela, a self-proclaimed robot living in LA. Landon shows how celebrity has been wielded as a weapon of mass distraction to spawn narcissism, harm, and loneliness.

But Jones also highlights the positive luminaries such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa and environmental activist Greta Thunberg. These famous people are actually responsible for meaningful change.



Visit www.uuabookstore.org to learn about this book and other inspirational and social justice books perfect for your summer reading.

- adapted from the *inSpirit* website

Upcoming: A Right Relations Team

Why have a Right Relations Team?

Because people matter and because feelings matter. If one person is hurting, then we are all hurting. If one person is empowered, we are all empowered. Our covenant gives us guidelines for loving and respectful conduct and acknowledges that there will inevitably be conflicts.

What a Right Relations Team is *Not*:

It is not "behavior police" who monitor the congregation. It is not "do-gooders" who wring their hands and implore everyone to get along and be nice. It is not a sounding board for gossip or for generalized complaining.

What a Right Relations Team *Is*:

Church members selected for the team (by a process as yet to be identified) who recognize that hurts lead to resentments. The team will exist to listen to and engage with members who have experienced conflict, oppression, or hurt feelings as a result of interactions within church life. The team will provide resources, educational opportunities, and workshops for us to grow as individuals and as a community.

Would you like to learn about having a Right Relations Team?

Please contact Kathleen Mader at maderka@hotmail.com or call (443) 857-1408. You can be part of this exploratory process.

Additional resources can be found at the [Right Relationship Teams: The Tenders of the Covenant](#).



UUA's Disaster Relief Fund

Earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other climate mishaps happen more and more often these days. The Unitarian Universalist Association has a Disaster Relief Fund to help congregations who have experienced loss. To learn more about the the work of the Disaster Relief Fund, go to their website, [Disaster Relief Fund](#).

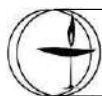
UUs can not only learn about how the donations are disbursed and any recent activity, but there is a link to apply for a grant from the Disaster Relief Fund, if UUFHC experiences a loss. In 2022, the UU Church of Bowling Green (Kentucky) received funding following tornado damage. The UU Fellowship or Charlotte County in Florida received funding to help remove trees and repair the roof and buildings following Hurricane Ian. And the Fund even sent help to the UU Church of the Philippines following disasters caused by Typhoon Rai and Typhoon Odette.

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

Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, June 11, 2023



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
Director of Faith Formation:	Jennifer Blosser
Church Administrator:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):
Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wed (Home Office): 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours:
Tues: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thurs: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:
Sun: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Office Phone:	410-734-7122
Office Email:	office@uufhc.net
Minister Email:	minister@uufhc.net
DFF Email:	dff@uufhc.net
Newsletter Email:	newsletter@uufhc.net
Webmaster Email:	webmaster@uufhc.net
Website:	www.uufhc.net

Wayside Pulpit

A society grows great when old men plant trees
whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

– *Greek Proverb*