



# The CommUunicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Teach Peace

By Will Strickland

"If you've ever wondered what you would have done in the 30s during the rise of the Nazi's ... You are doing now." That was the tweet that forced me to attend the events in Charlottesville on Aug 12—the "Unite the Right" rally and counter protest. I read it late on Friday evening the 11th as I stared in horror at images of men marching on the grounds of UVa with torches chanting Nazi inspired slogans. The next morning, I went to Charlottesville.

The rally was horrifying. Afterwards, I was having an extremely hard time understanding the hatred and violence, but more specifically the fact that the youth were so engaged in both. I feared for the future of my children based on what I had experienced.

The following Monday, Jack, my son, was ill requiring a drive to his pediatrician in Charlottesville, a trip to the drug store and an impromptu visit to Heather Heyer's memorial on the mall. Jack and I exchanged a clothespin I had found that had "teach peace" written in a childlike scrawl.

As that week passed, I remained very troubled by the experience and the aftermath of the riot in which everyone was talking about Charlottesville, but few were talking about the violence that I had witnessed.

On Friday, I asked Jack about the clothespin. He explained that he had broken it and given the other half to his friend to pass the "teach

peace" message on to him. Over breakfast we discussed the idea of clothespins with "no violence" and "teach peace" written on them and the idea of handing out two pins so that the recipient could pass them along to others. Jack and I spent the day in Charlottesville handing out over 600 "teach peace" clothespins.

These "teach peace" pins and the idea that Jack helped create has helped me find light after a very dark time. I don't know how the idea will evolve. However, Diana Ganiere and Judy Anderson are organizing a study group to explore violence. If you are interested in attending you can contact any of us.



New Member Spotlight



Barbara Puzanskas had known about UUFW for some time when, after retiring, she decided it was time to check us out. She joined earlier this year and has already volunteered as a greeter. Barbara was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY but has lived in this area for 38 years. She spent most of her professional years with the Valley Community Services Board, where she most recently directed the Assertive Community Treatment Program, also known as “Hospital without Walls.” Barbara lives in Augusta County.

Community News

The Boys and Girls Club of Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County needs volunteers for its **K-5 Literacy Program**. You can make a difference in the lives of youth in our community by reading with and supporting

young learners after school, Mondays through Thursdays. Learn more about this volunteer opportunity by going to the program’s website, [www.openthebluedoor.org](http://www.openthebluedoor.org).

Our artisans and crafters can also support the Boys and Girls Club by participating in its first **Holiday Market** to be held on Small Business Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the Willow Oaks Plaza in Waynesboro. A number of artisans and businesses have already signed up. You can get a 10X10 booth for \$100 and take home 100% of your sales. For more information contact Karen Pickering at [kp37@comcast.net](mailto:kp37@comcast.net)

Gypsy Hill Place in Staunton is hosting **AARP Virginia Associate Director for Advocacy, David DeBiasi**, for a free non-partisan presentation focusing on pending federal and Virginia state legislation directly affecting senior citizens and service providers. Volunteers are needed for this event, scheduled for September 27 at 9:30 a.m., to help with the logistics of parking and directing attendees to the presentation location. If you can help, contact Hinda Richards at [hindabob40@gmail.com](mailto:hindabob40@gmail.com) or 540-712-0670.

**Minister’s Messages**  
 Rev. Oakley’s [recent sermons](#) and his [monthly columns](#) are now available through the UUFW website. Just look for the “From our Minister” tab on the menu bar.

