



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Reflection on #MeToo

By Susan Fredrick-Gray

Over the past several weeks, I have been listening to and reading the many #MeToo stories unfolding in the news, in social media, in private conversations and in public ones. The conversations have been happening nationally, but also within Unitarian Universalism. I have been witnessing privately the anger, the pain, and the truth-telling, and through it have been reminded of my own “me too” stories. The courage of the conversations is an inspiration and challenge about how we are called to do better within Unitarian Universalism to build a culture based on models of power that are liberating, life-giving and that honor a multiplicity of voices and experience.



*Susan Fredrick-Gray is the ninth President of the Unitarian Universalist Association elected at General Assembly in June 2017.*

It is tempting to want to believe that sexual harassment and assault do not happen within our own faith tradition, among our leaders, or within congregations. But this is naïve and false. Just as we are being asked to confront the culture of white supremacy within and beyond Unitarian Universalism, we have much work to do to understand the way that

patriarchy and sexism operate in society and in ourselves. In all of these forms of oppression, we

see the ways that dominant forms of power – consciously and unconsciously – can discount, distort, and even seek to destroy those who speak truth in the face of abusive power.

As President, and as the first woman elected to the role, I am deeply aware of the spiritual and theological challenge before us in confronting patriarchy inside and outside our faith communities. I take the commitment to examine and improve our processes around sexual harassment and assault seriously. We also must not isolate gender, but take up this issue intersectionally, understanding the multiple layers of race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and role, and how they serve to make it even more difficult for people to name their truth and be believed.

As a people of a living faith who value the search for truth and meaning, we can learn to listen with our full selves to the truth and the challenge that is being named and be willing to be changed by what we learn. May we also be bolstered by the resiliency and power of the human spirit, so profoundly on display in so many places across our faith and the world.

We have good work before us, and hard work too, within ourselves and beyond – to affirm and live and actively struggle for equity and dignity and honor for everyone. And we have a faith that is strong enough to hold us and keep calling us forward as we journey to create individual and collective wholeness, justice, and accountability.

*This article was posted to the [UU Voices](#) section of the UUA Website on October 26, 2017.*

### The Caring Network is Here for You

By Hinda Richards, Caring Network Team Leader

The UUFW has a long history of being more than a community of like-minded people. We are a family, and as such, we care for each other in many ways. To fulfill our commitment to helping each other, the Caring Network (established in 1998) provides tangible care for our members at times of special or critical need, such as illness, surgery, accident, addition to the family or death of a close family member.

The Caring Network is a team of volunteers who organize and coordinate support for UUFW members assigned to them in groups. Caring networkers will maintain contact, assess needs in special situations and ensure needed support is provided. Confidentiality and privacy is respected in all cases.

By filling out a caring pledge form, any UUFW member may commit to providing one or more support services as requested by a member of the network. These include providing cooked meals, transportation to appointments and to church events, running errands, doing household chores, providing emergency child care and pet care, sending cards and notes and making visits.

The care provided by the Caring Network is a benefit of membership in the UUFW. But these services can only be provided to you if your need is known, so please don't hesitate to speak up at joys and concerns, inform Rev. Paul or call your networker. At least monthly, the weekly email blast will include a link to the list of networkers, their contact information and assigned member groups. You can also contact me to find out how to volunteer or to request help at

[hindabob40@gmail.com](mailto:hindabob40@gmail.com).

### New Member Spotlight



Mary Cunningham, who lives in Afton, first came to UUFW by accident when her visiting brother wanted to attend a church service. They were too late for their first choice and came to UUFW just in time for the service. "I liked what I heard," Mary remembers. One of the programs highlighted in the service was the "Our

Whole Lives (OWL)" program. It seemed perfect for Mary's foster son, and she resolved to bring him.

Mary loved the Fellowship's welcoming nature towards everyone. She was familiar with the struggles of the LGBTQ community because of her daughter, became involved with the LGBTQ Concerns Team, and is now the team leader. She'd love to hear from other individuals and families interested in joining the team. Mary and her husband Dave built a unique straw bale house, do financial consulting, welcome guests to their B&B, and are glad to advise others wanting to reduce their environmental impact and energy consumption.

OLD TIME OPRY NIGHT  
DECEMBER 2, 7:00 P.M.

FOR DETAILS, CLICK [HERE](#)

