

# The CommUunicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## UUFW Celebrates the Season at Gypsy Hill Park

About ten years ago, Bill Berry wanted UUFW to have a display in the Celebration of Holiday Lights in Gypsy Hill Park. He drew up a design and had the pieces made by Willie Ferguson, a welder and sculptor who made the watering can and flower pots at the intersection of Routes 250 and 11 in Staunton.

Every year since then, a group of UUFW men have joined together to install the display. This merry band includes John Sherwood, Ken and Glen Patterson, Joe Good, Braxton Nagle and Otis Huston.



The Celebration of Holiday Lights will be up through the end of December. If you haven't visited yet, consider a drive through the park between 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. and keep an eye out for our stained glass window. Hint.... it's much smaller than the watering can and flower pot, but very special to us. Thank you Bill, John, Ken, Glen, Joe, Braxton and Otis!

## How UUFW Supports Our Youth

This fall the Youth Group kicked off a new curriculum (for us): **Coming of Age**. This challenging curriculum walks our youth through facilitated discussions, reflections, games and experiences that culminate in the development of their very own *faith statement*. Not necessarily a forever faith statement, but a discernment of how they feel about their faith journey at this very moment. Unlike some faith rituals, there is no renewal of vows, memorization or specific faith commitment expected. The Coming of Age program empowers our youth to explore Unitarian Universalism, their own beliefs and how they might live their values through personal reflection and in group settings.

**One of the most meaningful and important aspects of the UUA's Coming of Age program is matching each youth with an adult mentor from the congregation.** Like the youth, adult mentors are expected to attend the Coming of Age morning meeting at least twice a month,

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### How UUFW Supports Our Youth (Cont.)

participate in organized group events and be available to their mentee for conversations about life, decisions, spirituality and more. This relationship has the potential to be life-changing and life-long for everyone involved. Mentors are not asked to meet one-on-one with the youth, nor are they required to develop any of their own activities. We are, however, asking for your time and your hearts on behalf of our youth.

If the idea of mentoring one of our youth appeals to you and you'll be available from January -May of 2018, please contact our DRE, Sarah Skaar (dre@uufw.org) as soon as possible. If you have questions before you can commit, please contact Debora Hoard

“Mentoring brings us together - across generation, class, and often race - in a manner that forces us to acknowledge our interdependence, to appreciate, in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words, that 'we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny.' In this way, mentoring enables us to participate in the essential but unfinished drama of reinventing community, while reaffirming that there is an important role for each of us in it.” (Marc Freedman in *The Kindness of Strangers*)

to find out more about the role of mentor. If we call you to ask, please consider saying YES!

### The UU Service Committee and Guest at Your Table

The [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) is a nonsectarian organization that works around the world to fight injustice. It is guided by the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism and has many programs to further its mission. One of them is **Guest at Your Table**. The UUFW has participated in this program for many years. This year we will hear about local efforts in the South Pacific to help islanders who are losing their homes to climate change,

LGBTQ individuals from Africa who need help with gaining asylum in the U.S. and immigration justice in the family prisons in our country.

The UUSC has an interesting history. In 1939, Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp traveled to Europe under the sponsorship of the American Unitarian Association to help refugees escape the Nazis. In 1940, The Unitarian Service Committee formalized this humanitarian

service. In 1945 the Universalist Service Committee was founded. The two groups combined in 1963 to form the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The Mission Statement of the UUSC states “UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power

structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.” With partners in over 25 countries, the UUSC empowers individuals and communities to fight for justice at the grass roots. Charity Navigator gives the UUSC the highest rating of four stars. The rating recognizes the UUSC’s commitment to sound fiscal management, accountability and transparency.

The theme for Guest at Your Table this year is “Small Change Makes Big Change.” Our children will keep a box in their RE classrooms to represent the guest who is at the table and place coins in it. We will hear stories each Sunday culminating in the monthly Social Action collection. Please support this worthy cause.

