



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Living into the Promise

This Sunday, February 4, we will be taking a special collection for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism in a service that the President and Board of the Unitarian Universalist Association have asked all our congregations to participate in. They call the service “The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU),” or “The Promise and the Practice, for short.

In this exciting and challenging service, we are encouraged to center the voices of people of color, even though it is natural in most of our congregations to center white voices most of the time. That means that in this service we will not be giving our own perspectives on race matters but will listen to the words of people of color who wrote for our readers to share. It means that, rather than me telling you even the truest and most unvarnished truth about race, you will listen to the perspective of someone other than your usual Fellowship leaders.

The president of our association and Lena Gardner share this summary: “Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism is one of the most exciting ways our faith is answering its call. As a national ministry for and by black-identified Unitarian Universalists, BLUU embodies a liberating community of all ages. A community that lifts up the lives, and stories and the leadership of those who have been marginalized and silenced. A community that brings hope,

when hope is hard to find. And a community that calls us to wrestle with the gap between our theology and our practice in the world.”

This is particularly important for our denomination because of our history in the late 1960s of making financial promises to Black UU leaders and then not carrying through as promised. Our current effort is needed for us to become the best denomination we can, but also to address our historic failings.

The Board of the Unitarian Universalist Association has set aside one million dollars from the association’s endowment to support BLUU. In addition, Julie and Brad Bradburd have offered an additional one million dollars to match congregational giving that amounts to \$10 per member. All of our gifts are needed for their gift to reach its potential. If this Fellowship gives \$1,500 in our special collection, our gift will qualify to be doubled by this matching gift. So please, do your best, at whatever level that is, and share according to your resources and your highest aspirations for this denomination.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

## February Events and Activities

The [Upcoming Events page](#) on our website has been updated for February. Bookmark this page for quick access to what’s going on each month at the UUFW.

## Spring is Around the Corner and the Morning Glories are Stirring!

By Joe Good

In our own homes there's never a doubt as to who does the maintenance chores. It is we! But here in our UUFW home there are probably folks, especially newcomers, who have no idea who maintains our lovely gardens. Have you heard about the "Morning Glories"?

In "the old days" The Building and Grounds Committee held "work days" several times between spring and fall. Volunteers, mostly from that committee, would gather to tackle a number of listed tasks—cleaning, painting, organizing and weeding the gardens. However, at each session the crew ended up applying itself to weeding the gardens because, well, you know how weeds are. Turn your back and, wham! More weeds. And in the sultry summer, by 10:00 a.m., with most of our gardens on the southeast side of our campus, it was blazingly hot. In response to these problems, the Morning Glories were formed. The Morning Glories are an informal group that assembles at least monthly during the growing season in the (relative) cool of the morning to yank or claw weeds, apply mulch and sometimes trim shrubs. Here's the good part. When the morning starts to heat up, they repair to a local breakfast spot or coffee shop for R&R. Problem solved. No heat prostration, no more weeds (almost) and a fun time.

Perhaps you're wondering how you can become a Morning Glory. It's simple. Just call Joe Good or email him at [buildingsandgrounds@uufw.org](mailto:buildingsandgrounds@uufw.org) and you're in. You'll be informed by e-mail of upcoming weeding sessions. No training, no green thumb

needed. The only requirement is you must be able, in some fashion, to reach the ground.

## Children and Youth News

Remember the mitten tree during the holidays? The Religious Education program was able to deliver a giant bag full of children's hats, scarves and mittens to the Valley Mission in Staunton. Thanks to all those who made this possible through their donations to our mitten tree.



In January, the RE youth enjoyed a dinner and movie together. Later in the

month, they participated in an "open mic" night in Waynesboro.

For the parents, the RE program offered "parents night out" by providing childcare in the Chalice House. And teachers and families shared breakfast together. More events like these are planned for February!

### Living From the Heart

By Linda Dove

Some sage said:  
In the sweep of a lifetime  
the heart gets educated.  
And I say: Only if  
you sweep away  
the dust from your days,  
discard all unowned thoughts.  
Spill your blood  
into the river of life.

*Linda Dove is a member of the Harrisonburg UUs*

