



# The CommUunicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Essential Resources

By Debora Hoard

Each year as the Annual Pledge Drive approaches, I wonder why it must be *annual*. I wonder why we must be *driven* to pledge. And then I take a deep breath – this time with Rev. Paul’s words in my head, “Breathe in the love, and breathe out the schmutz” so I can consider my pledge as a meaningful gift and not an onerous obligation. While I can’t be sure, I’m going to guess I’m not the only one who occasionally approaches pledging as a complicated duty... if not the Pledge Drive would be over with a single ask. (That’s a dream I’d be willing to make into a reality!)

Each year I want to pledge in a truly supportive way. I want my pledge to be useful in this moment and make the future of the UUFW, not just possible, not just secure – but more engaging, more generous, more meaningful. Over the past three years this has been complicated by many changes in my financial situation from job shifts to increased medical costs to an upcoming wedding. So though I start with less overall I still want to ensure that the balance is a true reflection of my values.

Looking for inspiration, I turn to that Vision and Mission we are still growing into. Upon reading the words that this Fellowship crafted and voted on, I am amazed, again. With every phrase we are called to kindness and action. So I’ll take the challenge we’ve set for ourselves:

from our Vision I will “...act with justice and generosity...” and from our mission I will use my “essential resources” to “build our Fellowship into an essential resource for liberal religion...”

Something else in my budget will go. But I’ll eek up my Pledge, right away, with my heart full of promise.



Five newcomers enjoy lunch with Rev. Paul and members of the Membership Team during our orientation class to introduce prospective members to Unitarian Universalism and the UUFW.

### Chickadees

Chickadees float down  
perch on my hand  
capture sunflower seeds

They feel weightless  
beyond weightless  
they buoy me up  
by Joe Good

## What's Your Pleasure?

By Laura Hiatt, Hospitality and Fellowship Team Leader

The Hospitality Team is in search of new ideas to enliven the social life of our Fellowship. Currently we are offering the potlucks and trUUvel presentations on a monthly basis. We want to know if members would like more regularly scheduled social activities.

If your answer is yes, what activities would you be likely to attend?

- Hikes?
- Family Game Night at the UUFW?
- Movies at the UUFW?
- Talent shows?
- Road trips?
- Other ideas?

We would also like to know your preferences for times of organized events. Do Fridays work better than Saturdays?

I look forward to your feedback! Send it to me at [hospitality@uufw.org](mailto:hospitality@uufw.org).

## Community News

Temple House of Israel in Staunton is inviting the community to join their Shabbat service on February 16 at 7:30 p.m. It is for anyone interested in experiencing a Jewish Sabbath service, especially neighbors and friends curious about the Jewish weekly service. The evening will be an occasion for strengthening the bridges existing between the religious practices of the larger community. The service will be in Hebrew and English with opportunity for questions afterwards. You can find contact for questions and additional information on the [THOI website](#).

## UWomenspirit Spring Retreat

The UUFW was asked to share the following invitation to the UWomenspirit Spring Retreat at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, May 16-20, 2018.

“UWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. The theme for our spring event is *Inviting the Sacred Into Our Lives*. During the event, we will explore the many wondrous yet simple ways we can bring the sacred into our lives every day. Daily offerings include workshops, activities and worship services with a group of amazing women. The venue for the event, The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, is nestled deep in the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Highlands, NC. In this beautiful setting, the surrounding views of nature will connect you to the sacred on a whole new level.”

Click [here](#) to learn more about the cost and other details for this retreat. Registration will begin in mid-March.

If you are not familiar with The Mountain, and the many learning opportunities it offers to UU adults and youth, visit the [website](#).

