



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Message from the Newsletter Editor

By Florence Ferguson

After an extra-long summer break, the UUFW Newsletter is starting up. We need it as another way to be in communication with each other. But putting out a weekly two-pager will depend on members recognizing the newsletter as a way to reach out to each other with information meant to connect, inform, inspire and amuse.

I challenge everyone to think about sending in something for publication in the newsletter. It could be a reflection on things you have learned about yourself or others during the pandemic. It could be something funny that happened while we have been apart. Or it could be a milestone that passed without you being able to share it with the congregation in person.

Newsletter articles do not have to be long. In fact, they should be no more than 500 words. And photos are always good. If you're not comfortable writing an article, just send in a picture with a caption.

As I am not able to go around nagging people after the service on Sundays, the newsletter will be published when there is content. Hopefully, that will be weekly. Send your pieces to newsletter@uufw.org.

Rev. MacPherson, Former UUFW Minister Dies

The Rev. David Hicks MacPherson passed away at his senior living facility in Richmond on September 25. He was 93. He served as UUFW minister from 1993 to 1996, and a few of our

members will remember him. This recollection is from our historical records:

With the help of the UUA, the Fellowship hired a part-time minister, the Reverend David MacPherson. He had recently retired from a large UU church in the Midwest. Rev. Dave conducted services with a formality that required some adjustment for UUFW members, but they welcomed the new experience. He and his wife would come over from the Richmond area two weekends each month to meet with members on Saturdays and conduct services on Sundays. They stayed next door to the new Fellowship Hall in what had become the Religious Education Building. Members remodeled the upstairs rooms into living quarters to accommodate them.

During his last service in 1996, Rev. Dave emphatically told the congregation that it was ready for a full-time settled minister. He warned that it might be the only way to continue to grow beyond the current membership.



*With wife Dottie
outside the Chalice
House*

(Condolences may be sent to Macphersonfamilyrva@gmail.com)

Update from the RE Director

By Sarah Skaar

We have heard a strong and recurring message from parents that they want non-virtual ways to connect. With kids being on computers all day during the week, many parents are seeking alternate ways to connect with each other and stay connected to UUFW. The UUFW religious education program has been brainstorming ways to connect families to each other and to Unitarian Universalism that are both non-virtual and allow for social distancing.

One way that kicks off in October is a monthly family RE box. Each month all registered families in the RE program will be sent a box of different activities to do as a family that will ground them in their UU values. The October box includes different materials to set up a "UU Corner" in their house. Families will make their own chalice out of a small terra cotta pot, they will decorate wooden peg dolls for each person in their family with watercolor paints, and they will get a journal to write down whatever comes to them during their at-home UU time. They also will get different prompts and activities to help them create chalice lightings and closings.

Another non-virtual connection from RE is on October 24th, when we will host a socially distant pumpkin carving. We will set up three tables in the yard of Chalice House, making sure that they are at a minimum 10 ft. apart. Families are signing up for time slots ahead of time and each person gets their own personal pumpkin carving tools to take home in order to limit sharing. We hope it will be a great success!

For families who aren't burned out on the virtual world, RE continues to offer a full remote religious education service every week that

families can do at home by following along with the different prompts, links and stories in the service. The middle school group, the youth group and the parent's group continue to meet virtually as well.

Crop Walk 2020

For many years, the UUFW has supported the local CROP hunger walk in Waynesboro. This is one of the primary fundraisers for Church World Service, an international relief and development organization that also provides resettlement services to refugees in the Harrisonburg area. The CROP walk also raises money for local agencies that address hunger in our community including the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Waynesboro Senior Center Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, and the Disciples Kitchen. While there will not be a typically crowded event at the park this year, people are encouraged to walk with their families, and even send photos of themselves in that process. If you like, please share those so we can collect them for a UUFW team collage! Email to Monte Hackney at montehackney@hotmail.com.

In lieu of a special collection during our service, you can make a financial contribution to Crop Walk through the end of this month. Go to the UUFW team page on the Crop Walk website: www.crophungerwalk.org/waynesborova/UUFW.

Member News

We extend our sympathy to Bea Berry on the death of her brother, Roosevelt Rowe of Verona.

Charlotte Shnaider is having knee-replacement surgery on October 6.

