



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## UUFW Youth Combine for a Fun Time

By Sarah Skaar

One of the wonderful things about working as a director of religious education for a Unitarian Universalist church is the free exchange of sharing and ideas that happens between religious educators. Coming into this position from a background of public school teaching, I was amazed at how much of a group all these different religious educators are. We all work at different congregations, for different amounts of hours and in different locations, yet we are a collective!

This year, while trying to brainstorm a way to make lemonade out of the lemon of a year 2020 has been, I reached out to the religious educator community to see if any other churches wanted to combine their youth groups and have them meet over Zoom. This would give the youth a chance to get to know other young UUs across the country--which is something they usually only have the chance to do if we are able to attend a YouthCon or GA (both of which are extremely costly).

Initially, I connected with the DRE of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. I was excited! Our youth would get to know youth in Nebraska! This was going to be great! Unfortunately though, at the last hour their church dropped out due to having a sharp decrease in their youth enrollment after their total enrolled youth dropping to zero. I went back to the drawing board and connected with a closer UU church-- the Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Fredericksburg director of religious education, Chris Johns, was totally on board with the idea. After a few meetings with her to plan programming and affirm youth safety in an online space, the youth started to meet with the Fredericksburg youth group every Sunday via Zoom.



Another wonderful thing about meeting on Zoom for the youth has been that one of our youth who moved away to Pennsylvania this year has still been able to attend youth group. In addition to that, the youth group is being led by our beloved OWL teacher Ruth Parcels, who actually has moved to Charlottesville, but is able to easily lead the Zoom group without leaving her home.

## First Watch Party Next Week

Last week the Newsletter told you about a new initiative from the Hospitality and Fellowship

Team to help us stave off the “shelter-in-place” blues. Florence Ferguson will host the first “Watch Party” to discuss the movie *Loving* in a Zoom meeting on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.



*Loving* is a 2016 American biographical romantic drama film which tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the plaintiffs in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court (the Warren Court) decision *Loving v. Virginia*, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. Rotten Tomatoes gave it 89%. The movie is available in Netflix. You can also rent it through Xfinity on Demand.

Here’s how the December watch party will work: You will indicate your desire to participate by emailing or calling Florence

(look for contact information in your UUFW Directory). Then you will watch the movie any time before the discussion next Friday.

The day before the movie, Florence will send you an email invitation to the Zoom meeting. Before the discussion gets started, there will be some rules to make sure everyone gets a chance to talk. If there are more than ten participants, we will divide into two Zoom discussion groups.

If the December Watch Party goes well, the Hospitality and Fellowship Team will schedule a watch party on the second Friday each month that we are forced to be apart. The team may try another way to have a watch party, which allows everyone to watch a movie virtually at the same time with opportunities to chat by video or text. This will require some training of the group leader.

If you are willing to host a virtual watch party, please let Pat Donovan know by emailing her at [hospitality@uufw.org](mailto:hospitality@uufw.org). Also, if you know of movies that will inspire thoughtful and/or lively discussion, feel free to recommend them.

We hope to see some of you next Friday at 7:00!

**Light**

If all darkness were one  
We’d need but one light.  
We’d need but the sun,  
And all would be bright.

But the dark is diffuse.  
By what lamp will you see,  
Which torch will you use,  
What light will you be?

*Joe Good*

