



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Do-ers

By Neven Matthews

*“But they while their companions slept, they were  
toiling upwards through the night”*

Good Poems for Hard Times, 1840,  
by Henry W. Longfellow

At last, there are thank yous flowing to the thousands who care for us when disaster strikes, newborns are delivered, or when we make the final transition. They have always “been there” and we take them for granted. Now that we are seeing what they are going through hour after hour, close to exhaustion, we say “thank you.” Those fine people are just the tip of an iceberg of folk, the do-ers, who are creating a range of choices our society has never seen before. They get up earlier than they would choose, travel further than they would like, stay focused on a repetitive task they excel at, all to satisfy a need and earn a living; often not a very good or secure living.

That gold or platinum ring? Someone went a few thousand feet underground with a rockdrill in heat, dust and noise to get it. Your 13-year-old didn't like the school lunch today? The same lady do-er in the cafeteria has baked 600 buns every day for ten years. And there's a pothole just outside the school gate? There are do-ers with Stop/Go signs spreading boiling hot asphalt in the +100-degree Florida sun ... for ten hours. In Maine today a snowstorm

with high wind is downing powerlines. There are do-ers with cold hands and freezing faces on bucket-trucks up in that mess to get the lights back on. Thank you.

Those millions of do-ers have kids at home. Remote learning is a parent's nightmare. Care groups are formed and interactions increase. Congratulations and thank you to the microbiologist do-ers all over the world for bringing hope by creating vaccines so quickly.

Here's the dilemma: while the do-ers battle to find ways to survive, our financial markets are at all-time highs. The pain is not equally spread. It is good to see some of the super-affluent make multi-billion-dollar efforts to help those in need—the African Ubuntu philosophy at work.

In 2021, let's thank the do-ers who make our lives better, and let's do something to help. *This expression of appreciation by former UUFW member, Neven Matthews, was included in his holiday greeting, which also announced his engagement to Ellen Koopman. Neven currently lives in Florida.*

## An 8th Principle for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

By Stephen Maxwell

We members of the Social Justice Team of UUFW have set two goals for ourselves for 2021: identifying and communicating additional ways our congregation can support

and participate in local environmental justice initiatives; and developing a program whereby the congregation can learn about and consider adopting for ourselves the 8th Principle, which is currently undergoing a multi-year analysis by the Unitarian Universalist Association. This article is intended to acquaint you with the second goal.

The text of the 8th Principle has not been formally adopted, but it has been subjected to intensive and thoughtful development and analysis. While we UU's have a long history of parsing textual language, the people who have been the driving force behind this initiative hope that the language will be adopted as is, without further editing or revision to fully preserve the intent and meaning of the text.

The 8th Principle reads as follows: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Several things are notable about the proposed 8th Principle. It requires us to acknowledge that systemic racism exists, including within our congregation and denomination, and that this is something we want to work to root out. It names "Beloved Community" as an ultimate goal. It requires of us, as individuals and as a congregation, "action", not merely reading and talking about it. Absent this work, we cannot hope to achieve individual spiritual wholeness or a broader Beloved Community.

One young UU writer, Myla Wade-Harper, testifies: "The 8th Principle is a call to action to stand up for people who are oppressed and crush White supremacy...this work is...sacred and necessary."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Beloved Community and incorporated it into his vision for what the United States could become, and what we should strive for. As elucidated by the UUA: "Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect and care, that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world."

I hope that every member of UUFW will enthusiastically and joyfully embark upon this journey.

*You will be hearing more about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in upcoming services and from your Board of Directors.*

## Community News

Gayle Shultz, MSN, RN, who is the Faith Community Nurse Coordinator for Augusta Health, has contacted area churches to ask for expressions of appreciation for their caregivers, who are exhausted and in need of some encouragement from the community. We are urged to send email messages of care and support for their front-line heroes, and to encourage friends and family members to do so as well. Your messages may be sent to [Together@augustahealth.com](mailto:Together@augustahealth.com).

