



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## The Meaning of Beloved Community

By Stephen Maxwell

When we, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro, formally adopt the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle at our next congregational meeting, we will be entering into a covenant. Webster's defines a "covenant" as a "formal, solemn, and binding agreement, i.e., a compact." We will thereby enter into a contract with ourselves and one another "to affirm and promote," as individuals and as a congregation, "actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." These actions will move us on a path "toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community."

Since the ultimate objective is the creation of a "Beloved Community," we should be in no uncertainty or confusion as to what a Beloved Community is. The concept of Beloved Community was at the core of the philosophy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Although he developed his world view within the constructs of his Christian faith, Beloved Community can be understood outside those confines. UUA provides the following definition:

"Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation, backgrounds and 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."

This entails our understanding and acceptance that the entire panoply of "-isms"

with which we historically created and continue to create social divisions needs to be deconstructed through conscious individual and group effort. As iterated in our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle, we UU's recognize and appreciate that there is an interdependent web of all existence, and that it includes ourselves. Humans, and therefore human societies, are inextricable from all life on earth. The 7<sup>th</sup> Principle asks us to acknowledge our common humanity and oneness with nature; our 8<sup>th</sup> Principle calls upon us to act in that knowledge, because it can bring us to true justice, founded in love.

If you would like to read more about the concept of "Beloved Community" as developed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., you can begin with the article "[Martin Luther King's Vision of the Beloved Community](#)," located on the *Religion Online* website for teachers and scholars interested in exploring religious issues.

Here's a question every UU might ask themselves: *How will the 8<sup>th</sup> principle inform my behavior?* Linda Shallash will answer this question from her perspective in a short video in Sunday's "Justice Service."

## Sustaining our Community

By Florence Ferguson

As we contemplate the path to be followed in pursuing Beloved Community within our congregation of faith, we must also think about

what it takes to sustain it so that it can become the force for good embodied in Dr. King’s vision.

As a member of the Pledge Drive Task Force this year and in the past, I have often thought about what kinds of messages will encourage members to connect their pledge to the value they hold for the Fellowship. I’ll use myself as an example. My annual pledge puts me at the Visionary level according to the UUA [Fair Share Contribution Guide](#). I feel grateful that I am able to contribute a significant percentage of my income. But the real truth is that my pledge is a reflection of the value I place on our Fellowship.

I value the presence of Unitarian Universalism in our area. As a person who shuns religious dogma, where else could I explore matters of spirituality and morality in a nonjudgmental setting? I value being part of an organization that believes in taking action to fight injustice. If I were to estimate the market value of the many social and educational activities I have benefited from over the years, it would greatly exceed my annual pledges. Finally, as a single person with no immediate family nearby, I value being part of a caring community that will support me in case of need.

During this year of pandemic, when we cannot be together in person and despite the heroic efforts that have been made to keep us connected virtually, I worry that perhaps the value we as a congregation place on our Fellowship has slipped a little. Therefore, I encourage everyone to think about their vision for our future when deciding your pledge.

I know that most of us on fixed incomes and with families to support are not able to contribute the percentage of income to be in the Visionary category, but I believe that if all of us could at least reach the basic Supporter level, we

will be able to fully sustain our community in the coming years. You can revisit your pledge if you have already sent it in. Just let our Admin Assistant know at [administrator@uufw.org](mailto:administrator@uufw.org).

### Notable African Americans You May Not Have Heard Of

**Dorothy Height** was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. As president of the National Council of Negro Women she helped organize the March on Washington in 1963. She worked alongside all of the better known civil rights leaders, including Dr. King, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young and A. Philip Randolph. She was also influential in the Women’s Movement, and in 1971 she joined Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, Betty Freidan and others to found the National Women’s Political Caucus. Dorothy Height received numerous awards for her work on behalf of racial justice and women’s employment, education and equal pay, including the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Learn more about Dorothy Height and other notable African Americans on [BlackPast](#), an extensive online Black history resource.



### Local UUs in the News

Our former RE Director, Christina Rivera, was recently in [the news on WMRA](#) following her experience of being denied a COVID vaccine. Her current position is senior member of the Lead Ministry Team of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship.

