



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Repair, Reentry, and Representation

In our Valentine's Day service, I mentioned all the repairs I had going on at my home. Some of you have asked me if I am still using a floor lamp in my kitchen. I am happy to report to you that all the repairs have been caught up, and my kitchen has new recessed lighting, new counter lighting, new over-the-sink lighting, new track lighting, and the circuit that supports both my microwave and my TV has been repaired. No more floor lamp in the kitchen! Hopefully, future repairs will come at a more normal pace.

We have now passed the full-year mark of in-person services, classes, and activities at the Fellowship being shut down for COVID prevention, a year of virtual worship. Another thing that was accomplished last week, right before we hit the year mark, was that Walter and I both got our second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from the Central Shenandoah Health Department at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.

This is a real game changer! Because Walter is 90 years old and we both have health conditions modestly increasing our risk, our primary care physician encouraged us from the outset to severely limit our exposure. And so, we largely maintained lockdown protections. Once we are two weeks after our second dose, though, things will look different for us. The CDC's new guidelines for people who have been vaccinated tell us that being vaccinated is

not a carte blanche for absolutely everything. Yet, bit by bit, normalcy should return.

And so, beginning on April 1, fully vaccinated, I will be available to meet with you in your home if every member of your household is vaccinated. And if that is not your situation yet, if you are still waiting for the vaccine or if your medical reality means that you are advised not to get it, I will still be happy to meet you outdoors, as weather permits. *Please email me or call to set up an appointment for my visit.* Most of you I have not seen in person for a whole year now! Let's take best advantage of the new guidelines and see each other face-to-face again, even as in-person services are still a ways off!

And finally, many of you saw a transphobic column by a local pastor in the February 28 issue of the News Virginian and my letter to the editor in response the next day. My letter, combined with the ways UUFW and I have occasionally made the news over the past few years, prompted Derek Armstrong, the managing editor of the paper, to contact me, offering me a monthly column slot on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The newspaper had expected there to be plenty of people who disagreed with the pastor about transgender issues, just as they knew he had his supporters. They were, though, caught off guard to learn of the harm people experienced as a result of the column. They realize that the political and social makeup of

the community is changing and that it is more important than ever to have diverse views represented in the paper. They realize that they should be more on top of preventing harmful or disrespectful opinions appearing as just another point of view.

I rolled the offer around in my head for a week, let the board and the social justice team know of the offer, and then accepted. The first installment will appear on Sunday, March 28. I appreciate the platform and the freedom I have been given to present my opinions to the community. Hopefully in ways that connect, rather than separate. It will be different from writing for UUFW, where, even with our many differences, we tend to have similar perspectives.

So please send some positive energy and good thoughts for this venture. I will be speaking with my own voice, presenting my own opinions, but I will also be seen by the community as your minister. For better and for worse, we will be seen in a new way.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

### How Would You Like to be a Morning Glory?

No, not the flower - as delightful as that prospect might be - a volunteer weed puller for UUFW. The gardens adorning our lovely campus are in ongoing need of attention, spring through fall. The Morning Glories group was formed several years ago to manage this area of UUFW life. Because our southern days heat up quickly, the group meets fairly early in the morning for a couple hours every

three or four weeks; the fruits of our labors are glorious, hence: Morning Glories.

Before the pandemic struck we would routinely adjourn to a local coffee house to celebrate our successful weed whacking - and our general good fortune - and we hope to resume this activity later this year. If you enjoy gardening, hanging out with enthusiastic, fun folks, doing much needed beautification work, and would like to join up with the Morning Glories, simply contact Joe Good at [morningglories@uufw.org](mailto:morningglories@uufw.org) and get on the email list. Work will begin soon. No pre-approval necessary, no mind-numbing application paperwork, no humiliating initiation rites, no pesky dues and no hidden fees. Satisfaction guaranteed. It's so easy.



*We can all be proud of our beautiful landscaping!*

