



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Beauty from Brokenness

By Paula Gribble

I am broken. We are all broken. Now, stay with me: in meteorology, the term *broken* refers to the sky “being more than half, but not totally, covered by clouds.”

When I was a child, life was especially challenging. I suffered abuse, both verbal and sexual. I was poor, and sometimes hungry. I am broken.

I am not the only one. All of us sit with our own struggles, hard times, pains, and losses. You are broken.

It may be a natural response to hide this brokenness. You, like me, may have avoided certain topics with people so you didn't have to talk about a painful time. You may have tried to hide the things you don't like about yourself.

Let's return to that meteorological definition: “being more than half, but not totally, covered by clouds.” Have you ever been outside on a cloudy day and then light shines through the clouds? And it's particularly beautiful because it's coming through all the clouds around it? Sunny days are great, but there's something special about the light coming through the clouds on a broken day...something graceful.

I offer to you that you do not have to feel like a cracked and flawed plate you drop in the kitchen—the one that will never quite work right. Instead, the things that have broken you also make you beautiful, special, graceful.

I am not saying that painful and challenging things are okay. They're not. But I would not be the person I am today if I had not gone through

those things. My broken is what makes me who I am today.

And you would not be the person you are without your brokenness. Your special, beautiful, graceful light couldn't shine through without the clouds surrounding you. Beautiful creations born out of brokenness.

We have to take these parts of ourselves, and allow them to be broken, and from these broken pieces create something new. Something beautiful and special. Something born out of our brokenness. Something broken that is also perfect.

Paula Gribble serves as the Director of Lifespan Faith Engagement for the UU Church in Cherry Hill in New Jersey. Her essay was recently posted to [Braver/Wiser](#), the weekly inspiration section of the UUA website.

What's Happening in RE

By Sarah Skaar

As the country moves towards more people being vaccinated, and perhaps the end to the stricter period of distancing, religious education is taking a measured step in that direction as well. In April, RE will offer both a virtual and an in-person way to celebrate Easter and spring. For our virtual offering we will be joining UU congregations across the country by participating in a virtual egg hunt. Beginning on Saturday, April 3rd and lasting through Friday, April 30th children and youth can explore different UU websites and find hidden eggs on them (did you know that the world wide web was invented by a Unitarian Universalist!?!). The egg hunt goes

live April 3rd and can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/z1p2mwqv>

On April 4th we will offer an in-person egg hunt on the lawn of UUFW. This egg hunt is a “come whenever you like” hunt between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm. There will be directions where to start and when you find a basket of eggs please have each child take only one egg and then move on to find another basket. While on the UUFW grounds we do ask that everyone is wearing a mask.

In May, we will start our summer series “Sundays in the Garden.” These will be family style RE sessions, all outdoors, masked and distanced. Families are invited to hear a UU lesson and story and then work together on our new children’s gardens that will be in raised beds put in near the butterfly gardens. We still continue to send home monthly “RE at Home” boxes every month to all registered children in the RE program. These have activities and crafts with a UU focus.

We also offer a weekly virtual RE lesson every week to families. In this way, RE continues to work to meet the diverse needs of children, youth and families in an ever-changing world.



These children clearly enjoy working on crafts from their “RE at Home” boxes.

Member News

Lauren Nash has been accepted into the Veterinary School at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Way to go Lauren!

Pledge Drive Update

The pledge total currently stands at \$130,842. That is significantly higher than it was at the end of the pledge drive. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who pledged, especially those who increased their pledge in response to the Board’s request.

A few of our members are also donating all or part of their stimulus checks from the IRS as an addition to or separate from their pledge. If you think this might be something you would like to do but do not want it to be part of your pledge, you can send a check to UUFW and put “Non-pledge contribution for FY 2022” in the memo line. The Fellowship can accept pre-paid contributions for the next fiscal year.

Thank you all for your generosity.



A group of about 15 UUs enjoyed the Spring Equinox walk around Waynesboro and celebrated the Festival of Holi with a delightful meal of Indian food. Thank you Sharon Van Name for hosting.

