



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## A Workable Balance

It's often hard to know whether to act from an abundance of caution or to take bold risks. And for individuals, a lot of the decision falls to personality traits developed over a lifetime. Some bungee jump, while others choose to remain on a secure observation deck. Some invest cautiously. Others speculate on the market.

Walter and I exercised an abundance of caution by "sheltering in place" through the pandemic. Then we got our Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as soon as the distribution system afforded us a place in line. We considered that the more prudent way to proceed. It still feels like early days of the freedoms we were looking forward to.

But my daughters, now in their 40s, are in the population that is seriously skeptical about all the COVID vaccines. They believe the development of the vaccines on this miraculously quick timeline is, itself, not prudent. So they are not vaccinated.

In Europe, distribution of the AstraZeneca vaccine was recently halted because of an apparent increased risk of blood clots. On both sides of the pond, something similar has prompted the temporary halt in distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Out of an abundance of caution. Six of the more than six million persons who received the J & J vaccine in this country developed difficult-to-treat blood clots. One of the six died.

On a purely statistical basis, one death in six million is not bad. How many of the medications

any of us take don't have warnings of possible side effects that include "death"? But on a personal level, that is still a death. Someone to mourn. The loss of a whole world of possible futures. And the experts are, indeed, still learning.

You may be wondering about the vaccination statistics from our congregation. Your self-reported numbers show at least 87% of us are fully vaccinated. And by the middle of May, that number is set to rise to at least 95%. Given the early difficulty getting ourselves into the queue to get the jab, this is truly amazing. We are not living in a bubble of isolation from the world around us, but we have done a lot to protect ourselves, each other, and our neighbors who have medical reasons why they should not receive the vaccine.

Before long you will receive a survey from the Board – this one regarding your comfort level with various approaches for when we resume in-person services and activities. What are your preferences and needs in relation to how we do it? Your board members have been taking their responsibility seriously and are trying to balance between our different individual comfort levels, between official requirements and our need to be together, between how we used to do things and how we need to adjust to different realities. When you receive the survey, please respond, so we can do our best job in bringing us back together.

We hope to have a relatively short wait now and trust that we will be safely together soon.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

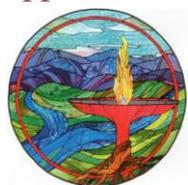
### Eggs...Cetera

The UUFW egg hunt was a safe, fun and successful event. It was the RE program’s first in-person event of 2021. Families got to enjoy not only finding eggs, but also hiding eggs for the next family to find. We kept the environment and local businesses top of mind and filled the eggs with organic treats – coins for Pufferbellies Toy Store in Staunton, and other non-plastic items. We had a high level of participation and are feeling very excited for our next in-person event in May.



### Community News

Augusta Health is asking churches and community organizations to spread the word that the COVID-19 vaccination is now available to everyone over age 16, and that appointments are available. You can call the Vaccine Call Center at 540-332-5122 or go to [vaccinate.augustahealth.com/vaccine-appointments/](https://vaccinate.augustahealth.com/vaccine-appointments/)



The Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) needs volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in Staunton and Waynesboro. VPAS has worked through the pandemic on a reduced delivery schedule and is now expanding. They need volunteers for the new delivery day, Thursday, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Substitute drivers are needed for Mondays and Wednesdays. They also need volunteers to assist in their Waynesboro kitchen for MOW preparation. If you are interested, please contact David Taylor at 540-471-5517 or email [david@vpas.info](mailto:david@vpas.info) for more information or to apply.

### Small Kindnesses

I’ve been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say “bless you” when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. “Don’t die,” we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don’t want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, “Here, have my seat,” “Go ahead — you first,” “I like your hat.”

*Copyright 2019 by Danusha Laméris. First published in Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection from Green Writers Press. Bonfire Opera (University of Pittsburgh Press 2020*