



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Open House Sunday ~ A Gathering of Friends

A Message from the Membership Team  
Sunday, January 15, has been designated as a Gathering of Friends. Invitations have been sent to former members and friends we haven't seen for a while, as well as recent visitors. And, of course, we look forward to greeting all the familiar faces in the new year.

Those of us who come regularly—who have the Sunday habit—and those of us who have recently discovered the Fellowship and are learning the joys of worshipping together and making new friends, are proud to show off what's been happening on the corner of Fourteenth and Pine—the changing art shows, the building of a new playground, the progress of our adopted Afghan family, the growing choir and the possibility of a new bell choir, along with our diverse and open, entertaining and provocative Sunday services.

So here's an idea—*Why don't you bring a new friend to the gathering?* The more the merrier.

Culturally, Unitarian Universalists are not good at letting their friends know about the diversity of experiences and freedom of faith that come with attending a creedless church. We've experienced the discomfort of being proselytized and don't want to inflict it on others. Or we've been scorned and scolded by relatives and others close to us for leaving the churches of our upbringing and don't want to

appear judgmental to those who stayed. But, the truth is, many people are leaving traditional Christian churches and Jewish synagogues *and don't know they have an option*—for themselves and for raising their children.

Statistically, an astounding 70 to 90% of people who join a UU congregation have a friend or relative already in the congregation. And, 75 to 90% who visit come because someone invited them.

Don't invite someone with the idea of “converting” them. Invite them because this Fellowship is important to you and you want to share your joy. Come with a friend on January 15 and we'll all be richer for it.

*Make new friends but keep the old.  
One is silver, and the other's gold.*

## Helping Our Community

A Message from the Social Justice Team  
In the first part of December, the Social Justice Team received a request from Brian Edwards (Abbie's son) for us to provide a meal for WARM (Waynesboro Area Refugee Ministry) on December 28 at the Waynesboro Free Methodist Church where they were staying for the week of December 26-January 1. WARM provides vital services to those who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Another church was going to provide the meal but had to drop out at the last minute.

The Fellowship has not helped with this program in many years, but we decided to do

it, given the fact that time was of the essence and we would be serving our community. On Sunday, December 18, we asked those in attendance at the service if anyone could help make food and/or serve food for the WARM guests. We had several volunteers. We also decided to purchase food for the meal. We reached out for advice from Pat Donovan who works on the Disciples Kitchen group.

We were expecting around 35 guests and 10 staff. We provided fried chicken, ham, mac and cheese, green beans, baked beans, rolls, and dessert. We did not have as many people as anticipated, so the leftover food was going to be frozen for use during the weeks when other churches are not available to provide food.



Roberta Patterson, Steve and Kristin Maxwell, Ann Majure, Donna Nicely, Linda Shallash, Rob Finch, Adrienne and AJ Young, Abbie Edwards, Renée Herrell, and Ed Piper provided food and paper supplies and/or served food. We were glad to be able to provide a meal to the WARM guests, and they made positive comments about the food and expressed appreciation. The Worship Arts



Team will be scheduling a special collection for WARM this month.

### UUFW New Year's Day Walk



A hearty group of walkers greeted the new year last Sunday morning. Our annual walk through Mennonite farm country on a beautiful day was a great start to 2023.

### Community News

**30<sup>th</sup>** **MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY**  
 In collaboration with the Staunton branch of the NAACP  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Vesper Service for Peace and Justice**  
 Monday January 16, 2023  
 7:00 P.M.  
**Central United Methodist Church**  
 14 North Lewis Street

Featuring:  
 Anointed Voices of Praise  
 Mary Baldwin University Choir  
 Greater Things Dance Ministry  
 Voices of Unity  
 Snow date January 23, 2023

