



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Do Bad Things Come in Threes?

Some people have a mild superstition that bad things happen in threes. I can't imagine that it would stand up to strict scientific inquiry, but it temporarily helps many people wade through a morass of painful or difficult things, trusting that it will not be an endless sea of difficulty but that once the third thing hits, a respite must surely come.

I was not raised in a family of scientific rationalists, but fundamentalists. But like rationalists, anything that they could identify as a superstition they went out of their way to reject and avoid. I learned to knock on wood or cross my fingers and such from my superstitious schoolmates, and my parents did their darnedest to counteract it at home.

So it seemed at the very least ironic that the string of three bad things that could be thought of as starting with my partner Walter's beginning hospice care and as continuing with my mother's death, hit that third point when I had an auto accident on the very evening of my mother's funeral. One. Two. Three. Well, after the fender bender, from which there were two messed up vehicles but no injuries, at least there should be a certain reprieve before the next bad thing, right?

And, sure enough, the morning after the accident, I called my insurance company. They sent me to a local body shop where I was in Illinois, and they did a little impromptu repair sufficient to the goal of getting me safely on the road back to Waynesboro. They used the black bodywork tape that is still holding the front of my vehicle together until repairs can be scheduled here. They didn't charge me anything for their time, they didn't ask me to sign any forms, nothing – even though someone else would be getting the insurance

payment to fully repair the vehicle. And we all know that any amount of work by body shop staff costs somebody a shiny penny. Their time and skill are precious, even when the only materials used are a roll of black body tape. And I had a pleasantly boring drive home, spread over two days because the accident left my driver's side headline out of alignment and unsuited to night driving.

I know that the whole construct of counting threes has totally arbitrary starting and ending points. Life is a flow only partitionable in the imagination, and meaning is assigned after the fact. But I was relieved to make it safely home, held together by black tape. Good and bad swirl through our lives in nonrational sequences. Other good and bad things, mostly smaller in magnitude, have happened since. Eventually the bodywork will be accomplished.

But the events will stay in the memory along with the assurance that life is a mix. Good and bad together reassure us that whatever happens on a given day will never be the full story but only a piece of a much bigger whole. Many thanks for the cards and flowers!

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul



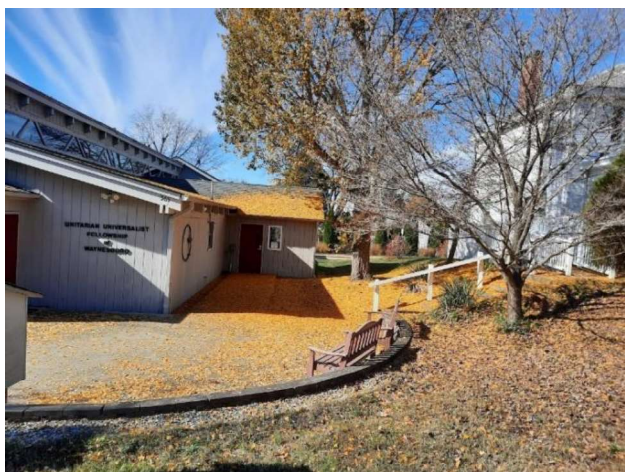
*A funeral bouquet from the Fellowship and a peace lily from the Caring Network.*

## UUFW Yard Clean Up

By Carla Throckmorton

A group of us met Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at UUFW to do what we could to clean up the Fellowship grounds for fall and make some minor repairs. Steve Lay did an excellent job of organizing us. Along with Steve and me were Margot Kephart, Clint Nicely, Pat Peason, Susan Schmidt, John Sherwood, and George Thompson.

We had a beautiful fall day on Saturday. I was so impressed by the huge variety and number of plants on the grounds. It is obvious the plants have been lovingly planted and cared for. I'm grateful for the people who have gone before and had the strength, dedication and foresight to establish such a place of beauty. A big Thank You to everyone!



*Our ginkgo tree dropped its leaves after the Fall Cleanup leaving a beautiful carpet of yellow.*

## UUA Position on the Conflict Between Israel and Hamas

The UUA has posted on its website a [message from the president](#) and an [official UUA statement](#) on the dual tragedies in Israel and

Gaza. President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt ends her message with this prayer.

"I pray for the people of Israel and Palestine. I pray for leaders around the globe who must respond to this latest flare of violence and the untenable ethical considerations that abound. I pray for Muslim and Jewish UUs who experience the impact of this long strife acutely. I pray that those of us less likely to know the trauma of unending brutality and harm will not turn away from generational loss, from the devastating realities and their root causes, or from the relentless tragedy of war and occupation. Be gentle with yourselves when you need to be, but do not turn away unless you must. We are one global family living tenuously on the same human-impacted Earth. Let us center ourselves in justice as we call for peace."

## Community News

Building Bridges for the Greater Good  
is sponsoring a forum

### MEETING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

Panelists from the Valley Community Services Board and the local shelters will speak from their perspectives about local problems unhoused people face, and potential actions that we can take now as a community.

**Donations needed: coats, gloves, hats, boots, socks, emergency warm blankets, and monetary donations.**

**MONDAY, NOV 13 AT 7:30 PM**  
American Shakespeare Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BUILDING BRIDGES OR MAKING DONATIONS, CONTACT  
PASTOR ELAINE ROSE  
(ELAINEROSE503@GMAIL.COM)

