



The CommUUnicator

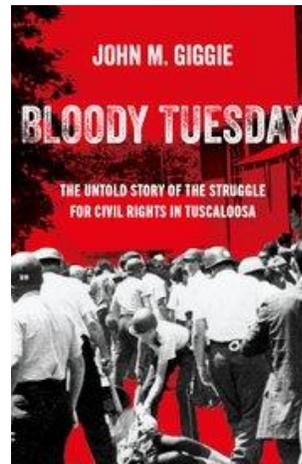
Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

Remembering Bloody Tuesday (Part Two)

The interview of John M. Giggie by our member George Thompson, featured in [last week's newsletter](#), continues. Dr. Giggie is Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama and author of *Bloody Tuesday: The Untold Story of the Struggle for Civil Rights in Tuscaloosa*. Bloody Tuesday was the pivotal civil rights event whose 60th anniversary will be commemorated in Tuscaloosa on June 9, 2024.

George: Can you share the huge leadership roles of ministers such as Rev. T. Y. Rogers and Rev. T. W. Linton and so many others (especially women) in desegregating Tuscaloosa and how they are remembered today?

John: Rev. T. Y. Rogers, whom Rev. King ordained while he pastored Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, came to Tuscaloosa with dreams of becoming a national civil rights leader. Integrating the city was his chance. Rogers was joined by Rev. T. W. Linton, whose barbershop served as a de facto emergency room during Bloody Tuesday, and countless Black women, who filled mass meetings, raised money, marched, and went to jail. No woman served in a formal leadership position, but their presence was critical for the success of the campaign. Today, none of these civil rights protestors are remembered outside



of the small circle of Bloody Tuesday survivors and their families. Hopefully, my book will change that.

It is worth remembering that, almost immediately after the police attacked the church on Bloody Tuesday, Blacks formed armed self-defense groups to keep their neighborhood safe and fight

the Klan. Rev. Rogers filed lawsuits against the city. Rev. King sent help from the SCLC [Southern Christian Leadership Conference]. Their efforts paid off when, shortly following the passage of the Civil Rights Act in July, Tuscaloosa disbanded many of its discriminatory policies. It would, however, keep public schools and the City Commission segregated for another 10 years.

George: What lessons can Americans learn from Bloody Tuesday today from both an historical perspective and as an inspiration for striving for a better world?

John: It took me more than a decade of listening to those in the movement in order to tell the complete story. Nothing in my professional training taught me to slow down and allow people to share memories on their own terms and according to their own timeline. Most historians are in a rush to publish their next book and grab the most

accessible sources. In the case of documenting Bloody Tuesday, I couldn't rush the research. This was more than simply taking the time to earn the trust of survivors. They wanted me to bring their story to life. Both as a book and in other ways—by working to erect public markers to their history that are now part of the Civil Rights Trail, by preserving their oral histories and personal artifacts for future generations, and by teaching the story of Bloody Tuesday in local public schools. I soon saw my job as more than writing a book; it was to record a broad public understanding of a truth too long denied.

UUFW Pledge Drive FAQs

By Sylvia Woodworth, Stewardship Committee Chair

What is a pledge?

It is a good faith promise of financial support for our congregation.

What is a Pledge Drive?

It is an annual focused period of time when we members and friends individually decide and report the amount of financial support we promise to give during the coming fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

But what if something unexpected happens and I cannot fulfill my pledge?

You would contact Savannah Fersner, our administrative assistant, and work together to change the amount.

When is this year's Pledge Drive?

We'll begin collecting pledges at Celebration Sunday, February 18, and aim to have them all in by March 3.

How much of our budget does the Pledge Drive total typically cover?

About 85%



What is the goal for the Pledge Drive?

\$165,000

Do we need to increase our pledges to reach that goal?

Yes, according to our own means and commitment to the Fellowship. See the Fair Share Guide on the back of the Pledge Form

What is the Pledge Drive income used for?

Operating expenses to assure that UUFW is here for us and others.

We hope you will join in the fun on Celebration Sunday and turn in your pledge if you are ready!

Respect for Gender Identities is a Membership Issue

By Florence Ferguson, Membership Team Leader

The UUFW Membership Team has been discussing actions it can take to make members and visitors feel more included. One action we have taken is to order stickers that can be put on nametags to identify gender pronouns. We will let you know when they arrive.

The team recognizes that not everyone is comfortable with the idea of identifying their pronouns. In many settings, it is controversial, especially when people are required to identify them. The UUFW will not expect you to put a sticker on your nametag if you don't want to. It is an individual choice. What's important for all of us is that we respect and affirm the gender identity of everyone who comes through our doors. Using a person's identified pronouns honors their humanity.

The National Institutes of Health has published some [helpful information](#) about using gender pronouns in the workplace.

